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Gaza summit: PM Modi gets invite, deputes MoS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi got a last-minute invite for the Gaza peace summit to be held in Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh on Monday

The summit, hosted by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, will discuss ways to bring lasting peace to Gaza and the wider West Asia. It will be co-chaired by Trump

The Centre has deputed Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh to attend

US President Donald Trump and nearly 20 other world leaders, including UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Italian leader Giorgia Meloni and French President Emmanuel Macron, are expected to attend | P9

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▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

From Delhi, Af minister issues stern warning to Pak over border clashes

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

TALIBAN-ruled Afghanistan's acting foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, who is on a six-day visit to India, on Sunday issued a stern warning to Pakistan from Indian soil that Kabul has "other options" if Islamabad refuses diplomacy. His strong remarks come amid deadly border clashes and growing hostility between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Amir Khan Muttaqi

"The people of Pakistan, in the majority, are peace loving... We have no issues with civilians," Muttaqi said at a New Delhi press conference, adding "certain sections" in Pakistan are creating trouble.

"Afghanistan will safeguard its national interest," he said, adding Kabul had already retaliated to border violations. "We achieved our military objectives last night," he said, before claiming he had heeded calls from Saudi Arabia and Qatar to pause escalation.

Muttaqi's warning follows attacks along the Durand Line. The Taliban claimed to have killed 58 Pak soldiers and seized 20 border posts in retaliatory strikes against Pakistan's alleged territorial and airspace violations.

Islamabad disputed the claim, acknowledging 23 deaths and asserting it had "neutralised" 200 Taliban fighters in its counteroffensive. Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi denounced the Taliban's actions as unprovoked violence against civilians, vowing retaliation "with a stone for every brick."

Border crossings have been shut. Closure of the Torkham and Chaman points has stranded trade caravans on both sides and deepened the humanitarian stress in landlocked Afghanistan.

Muttaqi's Delhi visit is being closely watched as a signal in the regional chess game. Without explicitly recognising the Taliban regime, India has upgraded its technical mission in Kabul to a full embassy—a bold step that underscores New Delhi's willingness to engage directly with Kabul's new rulers. Against that backdrop, Muttaqi's pointed remarks from a high profile Indian stage carry diplomatic weight.

'Women journos excluded due to technical issue'

After widespread criticism over excluding female journalists from his first press meet in India, Muttaqi said it was not deliberate. "It was a short notice and the list was prepared with specific journalists. It was more of a technical issue and not intentional," he said during a second press briefing in Delhi, which included female journalists

CONTROVERSIAL MOVE

Look at Priyank's plea to ban RSS, CM writes to CS

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

THE Congress government seems to be moving towards banning Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) activities on government and public properties, including schools and colleges, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah asking Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh to look at a request sent to him by RDPR and IT-BT Minister **Priyank Kharge**.

The move has stoked a controversy as the chief minister has acted on the representation given by Priyank Kharge, son of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, on October 4. On Priyank's letter, the CM has written to the chief secretary "to review and take necessary action with immediate effect".

The move comes at a time when RSS is celebrating its centenary year, creating ripples within RSS and BJP. On Sunday, BJP workers and leaders took out a 'path sanchalana' in Bengaluru to protest against CM's move.

Leaders, including state BJP president BY Vijayendra, hit back at Priyank, saying he does not know the contributions of RSS to the country and that former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's had recognised the organisation. "Over the years, Congress governments at the Centre have banned RSS, but later lifted such orders. After the Sino-Indian war in 1962, RSS was allowed to take part in the Republic Day parade in 1963," he said.

"Priyank could be eyeing the chief minister's post and that is why he has written to the CM to score brownie points," he taunted. CONTINUED ON P4

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DEVI AWARDS PRESENTED

by Justice V Ramasubramanian, chairperson of NHRC and former SC judge, in the presence of Prabhu Chawla, editorial director of TNIE Group, on Sunday in Hyderabad

PAGE 7

BJP, JD(U) TO CONTEST 101 SEATS EACH

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Sunday finalised its seat-sharing agreement for the upcoming Bihar assembly election

BJP and Janata Dal (United) will each contest 101 seats in the **243-member** assembly, while Union Minister Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party will contest on **29 seats**

Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and former Union Minister Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) will contest six seats each

This is the first time since 2005 that BJP and JD(U) will contest an equal number of seats

The JD(U) is understood to have not insisted on a lion's share this time in view of the party's poor performance in 2020, when it won only **43 seats**, far less than the BJP's 74 | P10

DCM calls Munirathna 'kari topi', triggers row

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A high-voltage political drama, heated arguments, commotion and sit-in protest marked Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's public outreach programme -- Bengaluru Nadige (Walk With Bengaluru) -- at JP Park in Mathikere on Sunday.

After finishing his morning walk and interacting with people at the park, Shivakumar sat on the dais to address the audience and hear their grievances along with officials from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). Shivakumar, who saw Rajarajeshwari Nagar MLA Munirathna seated among the public, addressed him saying, "Aey Kari Topi Baa' (Hey Black Cap Come)", asking the latter to join him on the dais. As a perturbed Munirathna walked towards the dais, Shivakumar said, "He (Munirathna) is wearing a new black cap."

A video grab of MLA Munirathna arguing with DCM DK Shivakumar at the Bengaluru Nadige event on Sunday

Munirathna, who was in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) uniform with a black cap, white shirt and brown pants, went on the stage, took the mic from the anchor.

CONTINUED ON P2

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ALMANAC TODAY

Monday: 13.10.2025 **Year:** Vishwavasu **Ayana:** Dakhsinayana
Ritu: Sharad **Masa:** Aswayuja **Paksha:** Krishna **Tithi:** Sapthami 5.36 pm
Nakshatra: Ardra 6.17 pm Moon in Kataka Rashi **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER

MIN 21°C | MAX 27°C

FORECAST
Thunderstorms. Overcast

Sunrise 06.09 am
Sunset 06.01 pm
Moonrise 11.54 pm
Moonset 12.21 am

Staff deputed to survey, GBA finds it tough to attend to emergencies

Nearly all of 18 employees at forest cell, 700 teachers sent on enumeration duty

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

With over 18,000 staffers, including those on emergency duty, like the Forest Cell under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), being deputed for the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey or the caste survey, services during rain-related emergencies have been impacted severely. As complaints of trees and branches falling reach the control room and senior officials, attending to these emergencies has become a big challenge.

An official said that only 18 employees serve in the GBA Forest Cell and nearly all of them have been assigned to survey duty from morning till evening. They are working 10-15 km from their stations and summoning and deploying them to remove fallen trees and branches has become difficult over the last eight days.

Apart from the work of removing trees and branches being affected, tasks such as collecting public applications to inspect and remove hazardous trees, and making site visits with range forest officers (RFOs) too have been impacted.

The Tree Expert Committee meeting, expected to be attended by the assistant conservator of forest, RFOs and other staff on October 14, to discuss pending files, trees that need to be axed, and other issues, will be delayed due to the ongoing survey work.

A senior staff member from the GBA Control Room said engineers engaged in the annual maintenance work, like clearing silt from side drains, too have not been able to perform their duties as they are busy with the survey, which will conclude on October 19.

"There was already a concern as BBMP engineers had been deployed to multiple corporations under GBA, and responding to the public by directing officials concerned to attend to complaints was a challenge. Now with even the available staff diverted for the survey, finding engineers and alerting them to rush to the spot to address flooding and waterlogging is much more challenging and stressful," said a senior GBA official.

Take up survey work or get fired: Contract teachers had no option

An enumerator collects details as part of the socio-economic survey at Jayanti Nagar, Horamavu. The survey commenced across Bengaluru on October 4 | KEVIN NASHON

Each teacher is assigned 300 houses and the time is limited. We have not been paid salaries for almost two months now. We need money when we go on the field for the survey

Mujiya Sulthana, contract teacher

RASHMI PATIL @Bengaluru

IT'S only due to the fear of losing their jobs that contract teachers of city corporation schools are participating in the socio-economic survey work despite facing numerous inconveniences.

Most teachers have alleged that they have been threatened by their supervisors and other Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials termination if they don't participate in the survey work. Currently, 700 teachers are working on contract basis in schools run by the corporations in Bengaluru.

Mujiya Sulthana, a contract teacher at a Shivajinagar school, said, "We were told by one of the officials about the consequences of not attending the socio-economic survey during our training programme. The official clearly mentioned that we will be given a termination letter if we don't attend the survey work. With this fear, we have been attending it and the assigned homes are far from our residence and even our school areas. I have been assigned Shivajinagar constituency for the survey."

Besides the threat of termination, Sulthana said contract-based teachers wouldn't be given compensation if they collapse or die during survey work. "The government doesn't give a single penny if we die in the line of duty during this survey. However, permanent teachers will get Rs 25 lakh as insurance in case of deaths due to accidents or health issues during the survey. Each teacher is assigned 300 houses and the time is limited. We are unable to complete 10 houses per day as the information to be filled is vast," she added.

Shayeena Begum, who works in another school, said, "I have a heart-related disease. Therefore, I cannot climb stairs and walk long distances. I have informed the health inspector concerned and also produced a medical certificate. Despite this, I have been assigned census work in CV Raman Nagar constituency. I have not attended census work so far away and will not be able to attend it."

Puttaraju, a physical education teacher, also complained of being assigned survey work far from his home. "I stay in Manjunath Nagar in Kurubarahalli and I have been assigned census work in CV Raman Nagar which is 14 km away. I have asked the supervisor to assign the census work in Rajajinagar, a little close to my home or at least near my school in Shivajinagar. However, they didn't. ."

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao was not available for comments.

TUNNEL ROAD

Surya seeks geological report for project ramp at Lalbagh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya inspects the proposed site of the tunnel road ramp at Lalbagh on Sunday | EXPRESS

BENGALURU South MP Tejasvi Surya opposed the acquisition of Lalbagh land for the controversial tunnel road project and urged the Geological Survey of India (GSI) to study the geological impact of the project on the ancient Lalbagh Rock formation.

A day after DCM DK Shivakumar's visit to Lalbagh, the BJP MP inspected the proposed site of the tunnel road ramp at the botanical garden on Sunday morning, where he got an update about the project and land acquisition from officials of Greater Bengaluru Authority's B-SMILE, the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) created by the state government for the project. He also interacted with morning walkers and got their feedback about the project.

Surya pulled up the GBA officials for failing to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and for not consulting with the public for the tunnel ramp. Replying to Surya's question on not carrying out an EIA, officials said the tunnel project would not require an assessment as the project is under the 'city development category'. They said the trees in the land needed for the tunnel project are four years old and that they would be transplanted.

"The Karnataka government is looking to take away Bengaluru's most precious lung space to make an exit ramp of the tunnel road. The project poses a huge threat to the Lalbagh Rock, a 300-million-year-old archaeological marvel that is part of our city's heritage," Surya told reporters after the inspection.

"At the ramp, they also want to build a commercial complex consisting of malls and eateries. Lalbagh belongs to all of us; it belongs to the city. People of Bengaluru do not want to concede any portion of Lalbagh for this mindless, vainglorious, vanity project that is going to spell disaster for the city."

Surya said he will put up boards in the park requesting people to raise concern about the project.He also highlighted that the Tunnel Road project is being rushed through without any EIA or geological assessment going into whether the tunnel will impact any part of the ancient rock formation of Lalbagh. "For such projects, there is a mandate by the Government of India that an EIA must be done. However, B-SMILE is claiming an exemption from EIA for this project, which is not true. Following the recent tunnel disaster in Uttarakhand, a complete study of the seismic and geological impact must be undertaken before boring any tunnel," he said.

Surya also pointed out that for the Metro Phase 3A, the route of which overlaps with the Hebbal-Silk Board tunnel corridor, the alignment was changed partially to avoid any damage to the Lalbagh Rock.

"Experts have expressed apprehensions that tunnelling activities in this area could cause structural instability, fractures, and hydrological disruptions, potentially affecting Lalbagh's ecosystem and adjoining urban regions," Surya said.

EXPRESS READ

Tech glitch disrupts service on Metro Yellow Line for over three hours

Bengaluru: Metro services on the Yellow Line were disrupted on Sunday after one of the four trains developed a technical glitch. The disruption reduced the service frequency from 19 minutes to 25 minutes and lasted for over three hours. According to BMRCL, "Due to a technical glitch in a train, trains were running with a delay on the Yellow Line from 10.15 am, with a headway of up to 25 minutes." A BMRCL official said the affected train faced issues related to power and signalling. BMRCL later said normal services were restored by 1.58 pm. **ENS**

The Congress government has given a 'goonda rajya' guarantee. The MLA was addressed disrespectfully. By attacking the MLA, Congress workers have demonstrated the goonda culture of their party. Dear DCM Shivakumar, insulting a representative chosen by the people is an insult to voters. Power is not permanent. Do not forget that people are watching your behaviour

-- R Ashok, Leader of Opposition

The MLA had come with an intention to interrupt the programme, where people had gathered to share their grievances. His behaviour is condemnable; it was an insult to the people of RR Nagar constituency

– Kusuma Hanumantaraya, RR Nagar Congress leader

Will address JP Park issues, says DKS

DCM D K Shivakumar, who interacted with morning walkers, representatives of resident welfare associations and others at JP Park during his public outreach programme promised to address their grievances, including the re-installation of Jayaprakash Narayan's statue in the park. He said the park will be beautified and all complaints will be addressed soon. After complaints about toilets being locked up, Shivakumar directed officials to open them for public use in two days. He called upon people to register their grievances on the 1533 helplinee. Shivakumar also met his school friend Madhav Nayak after 55 years. **ENS**

DKS conspiring to end my political career, claims Munirathna

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MUNIRATHNA complained to GBA Chief Commissioner Maheswara Rao that as the constituency MLA, he was not invited to the programme. "I doubt if this is a government programme," Munirathna said and told Rao to learn to respect elected representatives. Even as Shivakumar told Munirathna to sit first and discuss other things later, the MLA alleged it was a 'Congress event' for the party's propaganda. His mic was turned off, leading to commotion between workers of both parties and the police quickly took Munirathna off the stage.

Shivakumar called upon people to stay calm and hear him out. "When we look at the attitude and behaviour of the MLA, I understand you (people) are living in hell. I can understand your frustration with electing an MLA like this," he taunted.

Expressing unhappiness over Munirathna and his followers disrupting the programme, he said, "The MLA doesn't have patience. It is his nature to obstruct others' programmes. I know that you feel sad that you have chosen an MLA like this." Shivakumar urged people to give Munirathna the right reply when the time comes.

Munirathna played a key role in dismantling the JDS-Congress coalition government in 2018, after which he joined BJP and became a minister. The fight between him and DK brothers over controlling the RR Nagar constituency is widely known.

DCM DK Shivakumar interacts with morning walkers during the 'Bengaluru Nadige' (Walk With Bengaluru) programme at JP Park in Mathikere on Sunday | EXPRESS

Munirathna staged a sit-in demonstration at the park and complained that his rights and privileges as the area MLA were violated. The MLA said he will complain to Speaker UT Khader about it. Munirathna said that as banners were put up announcing the programme violating the high court order, he will file a complaint.

Munirathna told reporters outside the park that Shivakumar is conspiring to end his political career, and attempts are being made to promote his political rival Kusuma Hanumantharaya, whom he defeated in the 2023 Assembly elections.

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

13th October : Pluto Direct Just ask the wind in the trees -- the mighty oak grows to sway. This is why it still stands through hundreds of years of fair days and storms that would snap the unbendable things. And today, as a dwarf planet a few billion miles away appears to change direction, flexibility and adaptation will be the survival skills to hone, outlasting rigidity every time.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You're making someone's life more beautiful. Maybe that someone is you. Beauty isn't always a constant show. More typically, it's a series of deliberate, tender acts. Do less, do it brilliantly, and then let yourself feel the loveliness in that.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
Somewhere in the world there's an EMT or surgeon doing the big life-saving work. That's true. But you are also doing the relentless, messy, intimate labor of life in whatever form that takes. It's real work and it deserves compassion.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
A longing feels like a locked gate. Instead of rattling the bars, accept the reality: There's nothing better about being on one side or the other. But if you simply must get in, consider options other than the obvious one in the front.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
Family dynamics can be among the most difficult, but at least you're not alone in it. Every home has its weather. You can't stop the storms, but you can carry an umbrella of patience.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
You've been of service and helpful at your own expense. It's time to get attentive to your own needs and dare to put them first now -- it's an order that will really help everyone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Not being where you want to be only means that you've got somewhere to go. It's not a cause for alarm or a reason for punishment. Rather, it's an opportunity for compassion and a call to get up and try again.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
When the money feels tight, just remember that wealth isn't only numbers. It's what those numbers can do. It's about having options. And money isn't the only thing that gives you options. Imagination can do that, too. Treat today's limits as creative prompts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
Your standards are so high. If something feels flattened or "fine" instead of brilliant, that's useful information. Make one precise choice toward your standard today and let that decision orient the rest of the hours.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Waiting for inspiration is like waiting for weather -- unpredictable. Instead, make a daily appointment with your art. Even when you arrive empty, the act of showing up counts big time. Today, the muse accepts this as an invitation to join you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
Wanting is the stuff of being alive. But that doesn't mean it feels good, especially wanting what you can't have. Consider that some of the world's most elegant solutions were born in constraint. Today's magic comes disguised as thrift.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
Failure is rarely final. More often it's a rehearsal with costumes and lighting, but no audience. Each stumble adds skill. By opening night, you'll be fluent in recovery, which is the trait most admired onstage.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
You've known loneliness, and you've befriended it, too, so it's no longer a void so much as a space where new music, words or connections can resound. You cherish this space like an empty stage that you begin to dress, making it ready for the next scene.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

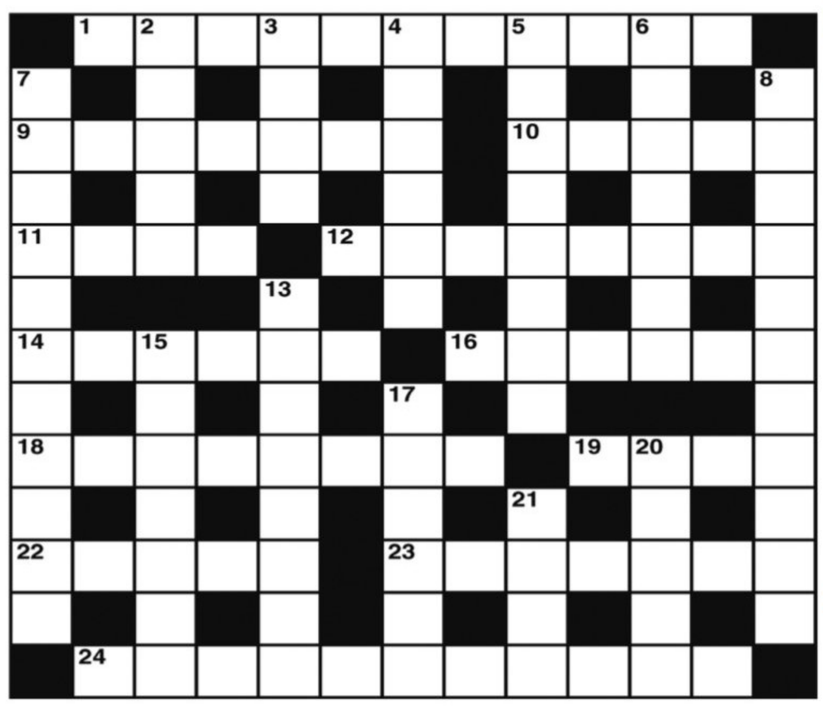
	7				9	4		
	4		2	1		7	3	
3		2	4		8			
	6			4	7			
	8	7	3		5	9	1	
			9	2			7	
			6		2	8		7
	2	6		8	4		5	
		4	7				6	

4	7	3	8	5	6	9	2	1
6	5	1	7	2	9	4	8	3
8	2	9	3	4	1	7	5	6
3	6	5	9	1	4	8	7	2
2	9	7	6	8	3	5	1	4
1	8	4	5	7	2	6	3	9
9	3	8	2	6	7	1	4	5
5	4	6	1	3	8	2	9	7
7	1	2	4	9	5	3	6	8

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Agitated stir over tea being a stimulant (11)
9 Cacophony from dance club on the way (7)
10 Boxing ring not entirely square, naturally (5)
11 Deposits of Ancient Rome perhaps (4)
12 Agreed that fellow politician hadn't told the truth (8)
14 Demon drink? (6)
16 A mouth-organ (6)
18 Two short of a complete score (8)
19 Chinese capital lies in total waste (4)
22 Exercise sequence (5)
23 Clergyman leaves the Apocalypse in a state of euphoria (7)
24 Note painter making an entrance (11)

DOWN

2 Try to put it in writing (5)
3 Something sharp in the chest, maybe? (4)
4 Was on horseback so came up for the riding displays (6)
5 It may create a stir at mealtime (8)
6 Foolishly give in weakly to start watching TV (7)
7 Young people arranged to see Scotland (11)
8 The opposite of night vision? (11)
13 As far as one can go in a race (8)
15 From Tangier without thanks (7)
17 Eccentric space-traveller (6)
20 A capital atmosphere in a small business (5)
21 All the players appear shy (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Peruse, 4 Articles, 9 Casino, 10 Scanties, 12 Fare, 13 Heaps, 14 None, 17 Sick and tired, 20 Return ticket, 23 Hoes, 24 Crash, 25 Spun, 28 Evildoer, 29 Godiva, 30 Danseuse, 31 Begged.

Down: 1 Pacifist, 2 Restrict, 3 Sung, 5 Receptionist, 6 Inns, 7 Laid on, 8 Sister, 11 Headquarters, 15 Caber, 16 Devil, 18 Skipping, 19 Standard, 21 Shrewd, 22 Region, 26 Idle, 27 Lope.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

KHSYU

ITHXS

TGRAEH

GNJLEU

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: ( ) - ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: GLITZ TOXIN AFLOAT MERGER
Answer: London's famous clock tower was completed in 1859. which was — A LONG TIME AGO

Three people have been arrested on charges of availing a loan from Athmashakthi Cooperative Society by pledging fake gold jewellery. Harif Abubakkar (39) from Akashbhavan, Mahammad Ashiq Kattathar Hussain (34) from Bikarnakatte, and Abdul Rameez (33) from Puttur, were arrested by Mangaluru city police

EXPRESS READ

Biker dies after crashing into roadside tree

Bengaluru: A 50-year-old man died after he lost control of his two-wheeler and crashed into a roadside tree. The incident occurred near Jayamahal Main Road in the RT Nagar traffic police station limits on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Christofer Vijay, a resident of Cox Town. According to the police, around 1 am, Vijay was heading home from Mekhri Circle towards the TV Tower on Jayamahal Main Road. As he was speeding, he lost control of his bike and crashed into a roadside tree. He sustained severe head injuries and was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead. **ENS**

Man from Bihar held for assaulting shop owner

Bengaluru: The Hebbagodi police have arrested a rowdy-sheeter from Bihar for allegedly assaulting a milk shop owner over a parking dispute. The incident took place near Electronic City Phase 2 on Thursday. The accused has been identified as Tarun Chaudhury (36), who is involved in the real estate business in Bengaluru. On Thursday, around 10 pm, Chaudhury entered the shop owned by Gopal H V and questioned him about a milk van parked outside, as it had blocked space for his car. He then confronted Gopal and allegedly assaulted him. The victim alerted the police. Based on CCTV footage, the accused was later arrested. According to the video, the accused was also seen kicking his two bodyguards inside the shop. **ENS**

10 hurt as bus rams into tree near Kolar

Kolar: As many as 10 passengers were injured after a private bus travelling from Bangarpet to Kolar rammed into a roadside tree on Sunday. The injured were immediately admitted to the Kolar District SNR Hospital for treatment. According to preliminary reports, the accident may have occurred after the driver lost control over the vehicle. **ENS**

Inebriated men assault woman cop in R'nagara

They tear her uniform; 3 held, others missing

RAKSHITH GOWDA @Bengaluru

A woman police constable attached to the Kaggalipura police station in Ramanagara district was allegedly assaulted, and her uniform was torn by a group of drunken men after one of them held her by the collar.

The incident occurred when she questioned the group for drinking on a public road and playing loud music, causing inconvenience to the public. The incident took place near Mukkoddu village on Wednesday. Police have arrested three accused.

The accused have been identified as Bharath, Rakesh, and Mahesh, all residents of Mukkoddu village.

According to the police, Woman Police Constable Yashodhabai M was returning home after duty along with her husband Satish and their village resident Shankar, around 9.30 pm.

They were travelling towards Muninagara via the Somanahalli–Mukkoddu Road when they noticed around seven to eight men consuming alcohol in the middle of the road. The group had placed liquor bottles on the road, playing loud music in their car, and dancing by blocking the road. When Yashodhabai questioned them about drinking on the road, one of the accused shouted at her, saying, "Who are you to question us? This is our village; we'll do whatever we want," and abused her in filthy language, the police said.

The police further added that, as the constable began recording a video of the scene on her mobile, one of the accused allegedly snatched it from her. When her husband, Satish and Shankar intervened and asked them to return the phone, the accused assaulted them. Another man slapped the constable on her left cheek, grabbed her collar, tore off the button on her uniform, and pushed her to the ground. When she screamed for help, the accused threw her phone on the ground and fled the scene.

A senior police officer said the accused, who were under the influence of alcohol, misbehaved with a woman police constable and have been arrested. They were booked under multiple sections of the BNS.

The group had placed liquor bottles on the road, playing loud music in their car, and dancing. When Yashodhabai questioned them about drinking on the road, one of the accused shouted at her m — Police

NO CITY FOR PEDESTRIANS

Tree branches that fell due to rain remain uncleared on a footpath near Lalbagh in Bengaluru on Sunday | KEVIN NASHON

Missing man's skeleton found after two years

ENS @Bengaluru

THE skeleton found in an incomplete building in the Kothanuru police station limits on October 4, has been identified as that of 69-year-old Somayya from Avalahalli, who went missing two years back. The identification was confirmed using a set of teeth recovered from the site, which matched the records from Dr Ambedkar Hospital.

The police said they also recovered a t-shirt label, underwear and a pair of slippers at the site, which matched the clothing of Somayya at the time when he went missing in December 2023. His son, Kiran Kumar, had filed a missing persons complaint at Avalahalli police station and confirmed that the items belonged to his father. Report reveals that the skeleton doesn't show any injuries or broken bones.

Over 50 kg of drug worth ₹50 cr seized

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Bengaluru zonal unit seized 45.4 kg of hydro ganja and six kg of psilocybin mushrooms valued at around Rs 50 crore from three individuals, including a Sri Lankan national, at the Kempegowda International Airport on Thursday.

The operation was based on the information that drug cartels were trafficking hydroponic ganja from Thailand, a press release stated. Two suspects arriving from Colombo were intercepted with 31.4 kg of hydro ganja and 4 kg of psilocybin mushrooms. Their interrogation led to the identification of a Sri Lankan handler, who was later arrested after he arrived at the airport with 14 kg of hydro ganja and 2 kg of psilocybin mushrooms. The drugs were hidden in 250 vacuum-sealed food tins to evade detection, the release stated.

NCB Bengaluru has seized 220 kg of hydro ganja in 18 cases this year and arrested 45 individuals from Kerala, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Hydroponic ganja is highly potent, containing up to 25% THC compared to 5% in regular Indian ganja, making it a preferred "elite party drug".

Traffickers conceal it in tetra packs, chocolate bars, clothing and vacuum-sealed pouches, often routing it through Dubai, Colombo or Kathmandu to avoid airport scanners.

NCB officials inspect the seized drugs on Sunday | EXPRESS

Drug peddler caught after dumping 10 kg of ganja

Bengaluru: A drug peddler was chased and nabbed by the traffic police after he threw away a bag containing 10 kg of ganja, after developing cold feet, hearing the police siren intended to clear the road. The accused, Sayuj CS (32), hails from Kerala. According to the police, around 9 am on Friday, a private bus bound for Kerala was parked near Race Course Road when the traffic police sounded a siren to clear the way. Seeing the police van, Sayuj panicked, threw away the bag and started running. The traffic police chased him for about 50 metres and caught him. Upon checking the bag, officers found five packets of ganja, each containing 2 kg of the drug, worth around Rs 25 lakh. The traffic police later handed over Sayuj to the High Grounds police station. He has been booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. **ENS**

TELANGANA POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
A-III, Industrial Estate, Sanathnagar, Hyderabad - 500018

e-TENDER NOTICE Date: 13.10.2025

Tender No.963/TGPCB/Lab/Air/AQMC/2025, Date: 13-10-2025

e-tenders are invited for engaging a firm with suitable experience to carry out a comprehensive study on the losses of the Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) to mitigate the precursor for secondary inorganic aerosols initially in Khazipally industrial cluster. The tender document can be downloaded from https://tender.telangana.gov.in. The last date for submission of e-tender is 03-11-2025 at 1.00 PM.

Sd/-
MEMBER SECRETARY, TGPCB, HYDERABAD

DIPR R.O. No. : 694-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26, Date: 10-10-2025

ANNAMALAI UNIVERSITY
DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender Ref. No.: DRD/RUSA 1.0/ e-tender/65314/2025

Annamalai University invites e-tenders through the Tamil Nadu e-Procurement portal (https://tntenders.gov.in) for the procurement of an Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometer with accessories.

Date: 13.10.2025 Registrar i/c Annamalai University
DIPR/5616/Tender/2025

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that our Client intends to purchase an agricultural land on the below mentioned Schedule Property from **(i) Mrs. SAROJAMMA** aged about 65 years wife of Late. Mr. Basavaraju, **(ii) Mr. MANJUNATHA GOWDA T B** aged about 45 years son of Late. Mr. Basavaraju, both are residing at No. 223/1, Near Milk Dairy, Tharahunase Village, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, Karnataka – 562 15. **("Owners").**

The Owners state that they are the absolute joint owners of the Schedule Property and are in jointly possession of the same and the Schedule Property is free from any kind of encumbrance, suits, proceedings under any statute. Any person or persons asserting any right, title, interest, claim or demand whatsoever in the Schedule Property or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, gift, inheritance, bequest, possession, lis pendens, labour and employment disputes, industrial disputes maintenance, easement, memorandum of understanding, agreement, power of attorney, option, right of first refusal, pre-emption or otherwise whatsoever is hereby required to notify the same in writing to the undersigned within a period of **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of issuance of this notice with all documentary proof thereof failing which our Client will treat the title of the Schedule Property as clear and marketable and will proceed to enter into the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural land bearing **Sy. No. 9/1** measuring **2 Acres and 27 Guntas** situated at **Thimmasandra Village, Jala Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District** & bounded as follows :-

East by :- Sy. No. 9/2;
West by :- Sy. No. 8/4;
North by :- Sy. No. 185 of Tharahunashe Village and approached road to Sy. No. 9/1;
South by :- Lake.

Sadananda P Naganur/ Swathishree M S
Sadananda & Co., Legal Consultant
54/1, Central Street, Off 8th Cross, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560 020
Mob: 9880484236

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TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invities Tender against Bid Enquiry No:KPTCL/2025-26/ OW/WORK_INDENT2827. For Conducting detailed survey using modern techniques for Re-conductoring of 220kV Narendra-Belagavi line-I&II DC lines using HTLS/AAAC on existing tower form using 220kV Belagavi to 220kV Narendra partially in Belagavi (29.48Kms), Khanapur (13.76 Kms), Bailhongal (9.76Kms) & Dharwad (20.00Kms) in Belagavi & Dharwad Taluk & Dist. in Operation Division, KPTCL, Belagavi.

The tender will be received through "KPP Portal" only. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the E-Procurement Portal can be obtained by logging on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 13.10.2025, 4:30 pm onwards.** Further details can be had from the office of the under signed during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Elec.),
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Ph: 9426537192 / 9449864173
E-Mail:V155@indianbank.co.in

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic** possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Bank, Vijayanagar Mysore Branch,** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **19.11.2025** for recovery of **Rs.74,49,119/- (Rupees Seventy Four Lakhs Forty Nine Thousand one Hundred and Nineteen Only) as on 10.10.2025 with interest there on** due to the **Indian Bank, Vijayanagar, Mysuru Branch,** Secured Creditor, from **Mr. Surendran V. and Mrs. V. Aruna House No.552, New No.N-4, 1st Cross, Theobald Road, Kamataeri Road, Nazarbad, Mysuru-570010 (Name and address of the Borrower & Guarantor).**

Description of Property: All that piece and parcel of House no.552, New No.N-4, 1st Cross, Theobald Road, Kamataeri Road, Nazarbad, Mysuru-570010.in the name of Mr. Surendran V Measuring East to West 25ft, North to South 24ft. **Bounded by: North:** Road,**South:** House of Kenchaiah, **East:** House of Basavarajappagalli, **West:** House of Shantagupta.

The Reserve Price: Rs. 86,86,800/- | EMD: Rs. 8,68,680/-
Property ID No. IDIB7434269720 | BID Increase Amount: Rs.20,000/-

E-Auction Date and Time: 19.11.2025, From 10.30 AM to 04.00 PM
e-auction website: https://baanknet.com/eauction-psb, www.mstcecommerce.com

Bidders are advised to visit the website **(www.mstcecommerce.com)** of our e auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call MSTC HELP DESK **No. 033-22901004** and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact **ibapiop@mstcecommerce.com** and for EMD status please contact **ibapifin@mstcecommerce.com.** For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: **https://baanknet.com/eauction-psb** and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number **'18001025026'** and **'011-41106131'.**

Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://baanknet.com/eauction-psb** and **www.mstcecommerce.com**

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Place : Mysore
Sd/- Authorised Officer
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Minister for Primary and Secondary Education Madhu S Bangarappa said on Saturday that the State Government will soon issue a notification to recruit 18,000 teachers, including 6,000 guest teachers, for aided schools and 12,000 teachers for government schools

'CYBER CRIMES ARE SEEING A DOWNWARD TREND IN BENGALURU'

EXPRESS Dialogues

PIC: VINOD KUMAR T

WHILE traditional crimes have seen a dip, cyber crimes have recorded an exponential spike over the years. But, said Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh, the number of cyber crimes is seeing a downward trend over the last two years and awareness is the key in bringing it down further. In an interaction with *TNIE*, he spoke about several issues -- from crimes, technology in policing, to the 'never-say-die' drug menace, and, of course, the notorious city traffic. Excerpts.

As Bengaluru police commissioner, what are the major challenges you see in the city, and how are the police handling them?
Bengaluru is a happening city and has a lot of people from outside and from different professions. If we observe the crime trend in Bengaluru, we have different types of crimes -- cyber crimes related to one sector, bodily offences by construction workers and crimes restricted to particular areas. Crime patterns are changing and police need to keep updating themselves. We are seeing good results. Bengaluru traffic is another major issue.

How useful is technology in identifying changing crime patterns?
The Integrated Command Centre gives an analysis of crime patterns. We have 320 '112' vehicles and we get around 2,000 calls per day. We observed that the crimes are less at night, just 10% of what we see during the day. Based on this, we altered manpower and deputed them to checkpoint duty. Such interventions have helped reduce small crimes. Our initiatives like Safety Island and other safety apps are helping people in distress and allowing us to catch culprits quickly. All these apps are run on artificial intelligence (AI). Right from the call from the public, to the time the vehicle departs to the spot and the feedback is received, everything is managed by AI tech. We can say that our response time is less than 10 minutes within which our men can reach any spot in Bengaluru.

With the introduction of technology in law enforcement, we are seeing a decrease in the number of on-ground police personnel. Don't you think the presence of police personnel adds to public safety?
It's a good point. Since I have become commissioner, I have ensured that foot patrolling goes on in sensitive areas. Technology adds to our work, but we cannot do away with manual policing. We do have nearly 23,000-strength force in the city and want it deployed on the streets as much as possible. We have to make ourselves visible and serve our beats. Technology and manpower go hand-in-hand.

What is being done to address Bengaluru's infamous traffic?
As of now, there is a lot of infrastructure work going on. After the Greater Bengaluru Authority was formed, the city has been split into five corporations and there is improved coordination among parastatal agencies. Anything that affects free flow of traffic is immediately addressed. Our traffic police are advised not to focus on booking cases, but managing traffic. The long-term measures are upgrading police stations, increasing staff and automating traffic signals. Our Cobra bikes will focus on illegally parked vehicles obstructing traffic. We have identified 96 high-density corridors in the city where towing will start soon.

What is your view on road rage?
In my opinion, traffic congestion has to be blamed partly (as it frustrates people). We take road rage seriously. Hoysala patrol vehicles help a lot by reaching the spot quickly and defusing the situation.

Given the transition of BBMP into GBA, do you think the Bengaluru police could benefit from restructuring as well?
We operate at the station level. Our network and pattern of operation is entirely different. We just need to keep parity with the increase in population by adding more police stations. I don't think there is a problem at this juncture. We have informed deputy commissioners of police (DCPs) that GBA commissioners know their areas well and that their operation is entirely different from our work.

You mentioned that police stations can be added. When will that need be felt? Are you in conversation with the government regarding this?
You must have noticed the addition of three police stations on the outskirts of the city. We don't need to add more stations within the city for now, but the strength of the force can be increased sufficiently. It is adequate as of now, but we can add more to serve specialised wings coming up. We will do it as and when required.

One in four crimes are cyber crimes. What is being done to curb them?
The number of cyber crimes has gone down this year and it reduced even last year. We can say that there is increased awareness among the public as they don't share OTPs easily now. However, cyber fraudsters are innovating ways to fool people. We have instructed our officials that immediately after they find out a new modus operandi, people should be informed through social media along with solutions to avoid it.

What demographics do fraudsters belong to?
Fraudsters and criminals are not based here, but victims are. It's perhaps because the city is financially developed due to the number of IT employees here. New modus operandi (MO) come up every day. We have mandated our departments to post on social media every time a new MO comes up, so that people are aware and do not fall victim. Every week, we have a cyber cell meeting to discuss new developments.

Can you tell us a bit about the "Mane Manege Police" programme?
The programme is almost one-and-a-half-months old. It is going on well, and it is very intensive. We are prioritising senior citizens and desolate people. A good example of the programme's efficacy was a drug bust we succeeded in based on information and valuable leads secured from the programme.

Since you mention drugs, how big a problem is it in Bengaluru?
It is not specific to Bengaluru. Nevertheless, it is a place where both transit and consumption happen rampantly; it is quite a serious issue. We cannot blame any specific community, but many foreign nationals here on expired visas are culpable. International courier and road transport are also major routes. This year, we have seized more than Rs 81 crore worth of drugs. We urge people to report such cases, under the promise of anonymity. We are also banking on inter-agency cooperation (involving the Narcotics Control Bureau, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Intelligence Bureau, etc) to tackle this. It has to be a joint effort. We also look inward: 11 of our staff have been dismissed because they were found to have links with drug peddlers. When we have zero tolerance towards drugs, involvement of our men can't be tolerated. This must have also sent a message to our staff who are engaging in such illegal activities. It is a continuous process.

Your counterparts in Mangaluru and Belagavi are conducting random blood sample tests on students and others. How do you look at it? Do you propose to do it in Bengaluru?
It is a very ticklish issue. In my opinion unless and until we have specific information we must not go ahead as it is invading the privacy of someone. The Mangaluru and Belagavi police must have had some information. When we have information here, we take our Scene of Crime Officers (SOCO) team. Recently, we raided a five-star hotel and a pub and took blood samples. We take blood samples when we have a little bit of information. Randomly doing something is not correct in my opinion.

What is the role of citizens in stopping drug menace?
Citizens must give information to us, then we will take care of the issue. We will maintain confidentiality. The information can be put on the app of the city police. Details of those giving information will not be known. We have to see how a drug consumer is trapped and how to get him/her out of it. The department has tied up with rehabilitation centres. We have Well Being Officers, who keep interacting with our own staff who may have all kinds of problems. Some of them may be addicted to liquor. We have got information about some people who are into drugs through the Well Being Officers. It is very difficult to get peddlers, who use online platforms like dark net to supply drugs. We have very good technology with our crime branch. We use decoy customers and monitor online platforms.

How do you compare the crime scene in Bengaluru with other metro cities?
In my experience of working in Bengaluru, it is a safe place compared to other cities. It is a cosmopolitan city. People from everywhere work here and are busy with their own professions. A crime here is highlighted because of the IT sector and the city being on the world map. The police are careful here and do not take chances. We are very sensitive to issues, especially regarding women and children. The department has a lot of infrastructure. The city is geographically not so big compared to other cities. We can cover each and every area fast. Not only now, it has always been safe here. This is the reason why so many people come and settle here.

Are crimes like the killing of spouses or those related to college students on the rise in Bengaluru? Is it a worrying trend?
Spouse killings are all personal issues. We are in a society where no one has time for each other. Bengaluru is a happening city. Now nothing is a taboo. It is a pan-India phenomenon, not specific to Bengaluru. It is happening even in rural areas. The city has a lot of cultural mix as people from everywhere come here. Colleges should take up sensitisation issues. Recently, some students were involved in an incident and the college was asked to take action against students. Some police stations like SG Palya, Soladevanahalli and KR Puram have only educational institutions under their jurisdiction. Most of the time, policemen will be interacting with students. In some instances, the police have called parents of students when they are caught for something.

Is the number of women in the police force increasing?
Yes. Of the 25 DCPs in the city, five are women. All new recruitments are being done with the 33% new quota for women.

Did you always want to be a police officer, or were you interested in any other profession?
Since my childhood, I wanted to be in the administrative services. I was fascinated by government jobs in uniform since my father was in the Army.

How much time do you get to spend with your family?
I make sure to take time out and enjoy moments with my family. We work under a lot of pressure, so I always tell my juniors to spend time with their families.

How do you handle a crisis?
I strongly believe in teamwork. When we face a crisis, I call my joint commissioners, and we sit together to discuss solutions. I also encourage them to discuss matters with their subordinates. We have a workforce of around 23,000. What the commissioner says should reach the last constable. Without interacting with juniors and understanding the intensity of a problem, we can't find effective solutions. In fact, many of the best solutions come from my junior staff. I always tell my officers to stay positive. There are always challenges in the police department because people come to us only when they are in trouble.

The police is one of the departments high in corruption. After taking charge, you suspended 18 staff. What measures are you taking to curb corruption?
I can say I am a different kind of officer. I don't operate through victimisation. When I initially took charge, some of my friends and colleagues asked me why I wasn't suspending officers. I told them I don't suspend just to create fear. I suspended officials only after three months, and that too after giving them sufficient instructions and warnings. I called meetings from constables to ACPs and made my priorities and dos and don'ts very clear. Still, a few people went astray. I feel we should not be vindictive and give them a chance.

You played a major role in Covid relief work. How was your experience?
During the pandemic, my phone number became viral across Bengal, Bihar and Odisha. People used to call me thinking it's a helpline. I used to get scolded: 'Sir, why didn't you bring my food?' Many were from lower-income backgrounds and in desperation, so I knew I had to help directly. I coordinated volunteers, local shops and technology partners to distribute dry ration kits. We handled over 10,000 calls per day. For example, requests from Bihar were sent to the nearest SHO, who collected food packets from shops in our tech backup list and delivered them. Having IT-savvy youngsters as partners helped manage calls and coordinate responses efficiently. It was very satisfying to see relief reach those who needed it the most.

CRATER-ED!

An autorickshaw struggles to cross a pothole, which is more like a crater, in Balapet in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

I too want to be CM: Dr G

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hubballi

KARNATAKA Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Sunday said that he, too, wants to become chief minister. "I also want to become chief minister. Why not," Dr Parameshwara told reporters when asked about the possible change of guard in the state.

"Cabinet expansion and reshuffle are matters left to the Chief Minister. The Congress high command will decide at an appropriate time. All MLAs have a desire to become ministers," the home ministers told reporters at the Belagavi airport. He clarified that the high command and the Chief Minister will take decisions on other issues, including cabinet reshuffle and the creation of three deputy CM posts.

"It is normal for Chief Minister and ministers to call for dinner parties. BJP has nothing to do with it. They are reading between the lines. This is not the first time that the CM has invited us for lunch or dinner. It is done during every session," he added.

He said, "There are 15,000 vacancies in the police department, and a notification has been issued for the recruitment of 4,600 constables. Also, 545 PSIs are being recruited and trained. Orders have been issued for the recruitment of 402 new PSIs, while 600 more PSIs will be recruited. Recruitment was not done due to the implementation of internal reservation. Now, recruitment will begin again in all departments. Age limit has been relaxed. The rule of transferring inspectors once in two years has been implemented," the Home Minister said.

BJP calls Priyank's letter foolish, wants ban on Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE BJP in chorus has lambasted RDPR and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge for proposing to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to ban RSS activities in government institutions and on public premises in Karnataka.

The BJP said that neither Siddaramaiah nor Priyank has the moral right to speak about RSS as it strives for the nation and the upliftment of society. "Ministers and Chief Minister who adopt a soft stance towards Muslim religious organisations that shed blood on the streets and fanatics who shout 'Pakistan Zindabad' are now targeting the RSS for propaganda and to retain power," it posted on 'X'.

Karnataka BJP president BY Vijayendra termed it a display of Priyank's foolishness.

"Priyank, who is in a responsible position, has written to the CM in such an irresponsible manner, which is a display of his stupidity. Those who lack information on the background and activities of the RSS and those who do publicity stunts make such statements," Vijayendra told reporters in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Vijayendra reminded Priyank that the country's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru had appreciated the RSS' activities during the India-China war and had allowed the organisation to participate in the Republic Day parade in 1963. "Priyank seems to be eyeing the CM's post and hence has written to Siddaramaiah to appease the Gandhi family," he claimed.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in Assembly R Ashoka, alleging that Congress supports terrorists, urged that the party should be banned first. "Congress leaders have lost their minds. The PM, the President, the Vice-President, the state's Governor, the Union Home Minister all are from the RSS. The Congress, which supports terrorists, should be banned first. The Congress is limited, but the RSS is present across the country. No one can touch the RSS. This organization is a centre that teaches nationalism. Anyone can go there and participate. Congress does not have the strength to ban the RSS," he said, adding that he does not take Priyank seriously.

"People in Pakistan hate Prime Minister Modi and like Rahul Gandhi. The Congress' attitude was evident during Operation Sindoor. If the Congress State Government has the strength, let them ban the RSS today itself. Congress has no such authority," Ashoka said, adding that Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara recently participated in an ABVP programme and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar has recited the RSS anthem in the Assembly. " Priyank should write to his father, AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge, to expel Shivakumar from the party," he suggested.

BJP state general secretary P Rajeev urged Priyank to mention the "violation committed by the RSS".

SURESH KUMAR RECALLS KHARGE'S VISIT TO RSS CAMP

BJP MLA S Suresh Kumar said that the misadventure to ban RSS by former PMs Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and others backfired. "Those unaware of this history are once again setting out to commit the same act. The politics of hatred is a hindrance to progress," he said. In another post, he tagged a newspaper clipping of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge visiting the RSS camp in Bengaluru in 2002.

RSS volunteers take part in a 'Path Sanchalan' programme to mark the organisation's centenary year in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

RSS is Taliban of India, says Congress MLC Hariprasad

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"PRIYANK is better off focusing on developing Kalyan-Karnataka, which is academically backward. His father has stated that around 35,000 posts of teachers are yet to be filled in the region," Vijayendra said.

Priyank retorted, saying RSS is instilling negative sentiments in the minds of children and youth on the country's unity and Constitutional values. "When divisive forces raise their heads and toss the values of the Constitution to the winds, it is the Constitution itself that gives us the power and authority to suppress them. It is due to the influence of the fundamentalist ideology propagated by the RSS that an atmosphere has been created today where shoes are thrown at the Chief Justice of India, and a mindset of insulting Baba Saheb Ambedkar has grown. I have written to the Chief Minister requesting him to ban the activities of the RSS in all government public places with the aim of preventing the RSS's attempts to create negative impacts on children and the youth community, and to uphold the ideals of the Constitution- unity, equality, and integrity," Priyank posted on 'X' on Sunday.

"In the interest of children, youth, public and well-being of society, I request you to ban all activities conducted by the RSS organisation in the name of a 'shakha', Sanghik or Baithak in government schools and government-aided schools and any government places including grounds, parks, temples of the Muzrai Department, archaeological sites, departmental places," read his letter to the CM.

Senior Congress leader and MLC BK Hariprasad backed Priyank, saying, "RSS has done the damage it ought to do in a hundred years. Incidents of hurling a shoe at the CJI, lynching of a Valmiki community youth in Uttar Pradesh and suicide of an IPS officer in Haryana as he was forbidden entry into a Hindu temple are all a result of RSS ideology. It's a Taliban of India as it's an unregistered organisation holding its 'shakas', which are illegal meetings indulging in underground activities."

He said, "We have no objection if RSS gets prior permission from the police to hold its meetings. For now, its activities will be banned and later the organisation will be banned. We had assured the people in our manifesto ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections that Bajrang Dal would be banned. I don't know why the government has not acted on it yet."

He wondered how the police let RSS conduct its 'shakas' without permission, while not allowing other outfits to hold meetings.

A boy swept away in the Bhadra canal in Lingadahalli village of Davanagere district on Sunday. Manoj (9), who was studying in class 3, went to the canal with his relative to clean an autorickshaw and was swept away due to strong current

Misusing Hasanamba gold card, 4 officials suspended

Officials collected cards from devotees, passed them on to relatives

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hassan

District in-charge Minister Krishna Byre Gowda interacts with students who came to visit Hasanamba temple in Hassan on Sunday | EXPRESS

DEPUTY Commissioner K S Latha Kumari on Sunday suspended four revenue officials for allegedly misusing Gold Card entry passes during the ongoing Hasanamba temple festivities. The move comes after a similar action against two government officials on Saturday.

According to a press release issued by the Deputy Commissioner, revenue inspectors Govindaraj and Yoganand, and village accountants Santosh Ambigara and Shivaraj Mahima Patel were suspended for their misconduct. The officials, who were deployed at a Gold Card scanning centre, reportedly collected Gold Cards from devotees and allowed them entry without scanning. The cards were allegedly passed on to the officials' relatives and friends waiting outside.

The issue came to light following a tip-off from a devotee. The misuse was also confirmed through CCTV footage. The suspension followed an inquiry report submitted by Assistant Commissioner Maruti, who is also the administrator of the temple. District authorities have directed all officials deployed for the Hasanamba festivities to strictly adhere to the guidelines, keeping in mind the interests and safety of the devotees.

In all, the deputy commissioner has suspended six officials for dereliction of duty during the ongoing festivities.

Hasanamba temple rakes in ₹2.24 crore through ticket sales

Devotees hailing from various corners of the district converged upon Hassan city to pay homage to the revered Goddess Hasanamba over the course of two days.

A massive revenue of ₹2.24 crore was generated through sale of ₹1,000 and ₹300 tickets during Hasanamba festivities. Data available with TNIE reveals that a total of 27,759 tickets priced at ₹300 and 12,396 tickets priced at ₹1,000 were sold within this period.

The revenue breakdown shows that ₹83,27,700 was amassed from the sale of ₹300 tickets, ₹1,23,96,000 from ₹1,000 tickets, and ₹17,33,700 from the sale of Laddu prasadam.

Devotees have the option to purchase entry tickets at ticket counters set up near the temple or conveniently online. Visitors from various regions of the state have praised the accommodating atmosphere surrounding the temple. They have noted their satisfaction with the swift darshan experience devoid of any obstacles. It is worth noting that the district in-charge minister, Krishna Byregowda, has streamlined the system by prohibiting VIP and VVIP passes. The minister also engaged with devotees in the common queue on both Friday and Saturday. Moreover, the district in-charge minister and Hassan MP Shreyas Patel each purchased entry tickets worth ?5 lakh and distributed them among devotees in their respective constituencies.

Pvt buses will create more issues: Experts

INDRA S @Bengaluru

ALLOWING private operators to run bus services in Bengaluru will create more problems rather than solving existing ones and is a dangerous move, mobility experts have warned. They also said the move will lead operators to prioritise profitable routes and inflate the ticket prices, reducing accessibility.

After former Infosys CFO TV Mohandas Pai suggested dismantling the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya highlighted its stagnated expansion, proposing allowing private operators to run bus services in Bengaluru, experts warned of its repercussions on the major public transport mode carrying 38 to 40 lakh passengers per day.

Ravi Gadepalli, founder of public transport advisory firm Transit Intelligence, said, "Privatising bus services will create more problems." He said complete privatisation without financial support from the government would lead private operators to prioritise only high-demand, profitable routes, resulting in higher fare.

"No global city with high-quality public transport achieved it by privatising service provisions. In fact, BMTC has among the least financial losses when compared to some metropolitan cities. This points to the need to invest more rather than looking at it as a failure," he added.

Vinay Sreenivas, a member of Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike, said, "What Bengaluru really needs is strengthening of BMTC — more buses, more mini-buses, and dedicated bus lanes. If these are in place, the system will improve and more people will use public transport."

"Whatever Mohandas Pai and Surya are saying is very dangerous. First of all, what problems are they trying to solve by calling for allowing private buses? We spend thousands of crores on the Metro — money from both the state and the Centre — so why not invest the same way in BMTC?" he said.

However, S Nataraj Sharma, President of the Karnataka Private Bus Owners Association, said, "We will welcome the move if private players are allowed. And we will run private buses at the same cost and on routes the BMTC decides. We will make sure we provide good service for the public. And if allowed, we will 100 per cent go for public services, and we will definitely provide much better buses."

Fake traffic e-challan scam sweeps Karnataka

ENS @Belagavi

A new wave of cyber fraud is sweeping across Karnataka, with citizens in Belagavi, Bengaluru, Shivamogga, and other districts falling victim to a fake e-challan scam. Cybercriminals are exploiting the traffic fine system by sending deceptive APK files disguised as official police challan notifications.

Once unsuspecting victims click on these files, the malware takes control of their mobile phones, allowing fraudsters to access sensitive data, including bank account details. Using this information, criminals have been able to embezzle large sums of money from citizens' accounts. In Belagavi, several incidents have already been reported. Fraudsters send messages claiming to be from the police, urging recipients to pay pending fines online through an attached APK file. After installation, victims lose control over their devices, leading to unauthorised withdrawals.

A resident of Shivamogga recently lost Rs 1.5 lakh from two bank accounts after downloading such an app to check his supposed traffic fines. Similarly, a Belagavi driver was defrauded of Rs 40,000.

Children and parents engage in a session at childrens library | EXPRES

BIC launches free Sunday library for kids

ANUBHAB ROY @Bengaluru

THE new children's library started by the Bangalore International Centre (BIC) aims to rekindle love for reading among young readers. The library will be open every Sunday

Like the rest of BIC's offerings, the new children's library -- 'Around the World in 50 Sundays' -- is completely free to access. The target age group for most of these sessions and the library's curation is 6-14 years.

BIC Programmes Associate Advaita Manikkath said the library at present has around 900 books with the specific focus on picture books. The project is being funded by Doorbeen and the HT Parekh Foundation. Each session requires RSVP-ing ahead via the BIC website.

The library formally opened about a month ago, but it is still taking shape, with borrowing beginning on Sunday. To borrow books, one has to register at least three visits to the library.

Aruna Gopakumar, founder of The School of You, was the storytelling facilitator on October 5. Through various stories and roleplay, she made around 24 children, with their parents, engage in one of the primary lessons reading has to teach us: empathy. "I feel that emotional and social skills are built through these interactions. It is important to look at stories from different angles," she added.

The six-year-old Savreen and five-year-old Jeeva both try to make it every week, and stay back even after the sessions are over, till the library closes at 6 pm.The wide, sprawling area, often utilised for performances, is used the best during interactive sessions. A typical Sunday at the children's library opens with a facilitated literary session where children, and sometimes their parents, are invited to participate.

EXPRESS READ

Planetarium holds lecture on carbon

Bengaluru: The Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium is holding a "Dasara Lecture Series" focused on carbon. Sudha Rajamani, Associate Professor at Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Pune, delivered the second lecture of the series on Sunday. Rajamani's area of specialisation is astrobiology, something that, according to her, is a very new yet fast-emerging field. Her specialisation allowed her to see carbon present before life began on Earth, acting as one of the most crucial elements behind its existence. She spoke about how carbon, like many life-sustaining elements on the earth (including Hydrogen), arrived on the earth through asteroids, meteorites, and solar nebulae. Rajamani concluded her talk by touching on how carbon can simultaneously be a building block of life and the principal component behind greenhouse gases, calling upon the urgent need to regulate the usage of fossil fuels. ENS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sri. **RAGHAVENDRA RAJKUMAR**, Aged about 60 years, S/o. late Sri. S.P. Muthuraj @ Dr. Rajkumar, residing at No.248, 18th Cross, Dr. Rajkumar House, Aramanenagara, Sadashivanagara, Bengaluru-560 080 is the absolute owner of the property described herein below. He informed me that, he had lost (a) Original Allotment Letter dtd. 26.09.1970 issued by CITB in the name of V. Balakrishna, (b) Original Memo/Possession Certificate dtd. 19.03.1971 issued by CITB in the name of V. Balakrishna, (c) Original Sale Deed dtd. 16.01.1985 executed by BDA in favour of V. Balakrishna, registered on 17.01.1985 as Doc. No.4444/1984-85 of Book-1, Vol-610, Page 221 and (d) Original Sale Deed dtd. 06.05.1985 executed by V. Balakrishna in favour of Sri. V. Shekar and Smt. S. Saroja registered on 07.06.1985 as Doc. No.523/1985-86 of Book-1, Vol-684, Pages 223-230, both registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore. He has registered an On-line Police Complaint on 11.10.2025 in respect of the same. My Client requests that, if any person finds the aforesaid documents, please deliver the same to the undersigned.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **E-Aasthi Khatha PID No.9204079034, Municipal No.636, Old PID No.14-74-636, Khatha No.77**, situated at Rajajinagar, West of Chord Road, 2nd Stage, 3rd Main, BBMP Old Ward No.14, New Ward No.67, Bangalore, measuring **East to West 60 Ft. & North to South 40 Ft., totally measuring 2400 Sq. Ft.,** together with building constructed thereon and bounded as follows:- East by : 3rd Main Road; West by : Site No.624, 623; North by : Site No.635; South by : Site No.637.

(*Sunitha Sharma*) Advocate,
No.2378/12, "J.P. Mansion",
13th Main, 'A' Block, 2nd Stage,
Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010.
Place: Bengaluru Dated: 11.10.2025

प्रबंधन अध्ययन विभाग
Department of Management Studies
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मद्रास
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- 60% and above in Bachelor's Degree in any discipline.
- Minimum three years of work experience.

IMPORTANT DATES

Application Opens	September 06, 2025
Application Deadline	October 19, 2025
Selection Process and Results	November 2025
Classes Commence	January 2026

For details on selection process and to apply, please visit
https://doms.iitm.ac.in/emba/
Coordinates:emba@iitm.ac.in ; 9840572328/044–2257-5558
domsiitmadras domsiitmadras doms.iitm.ac.in/emba

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large, that FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD., has decided to conduct Auction of Gold ornaments belonging to accounts (mentioned below) which have become overdue or which have defaults or margin breach customers. The Auction would be held at respective Branches specified below on **Friday 24-10-2025 between 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.** This would continue till the auction process is over.

Arakalgud 9964260350 **FEDGL0036**0015695, 0015709 **B H Road** 8904344610 **FEDGL0103**0019710, 0019738 **BELGAUM** 9538166084 **FEDGL0136**0008449, 0008450, 0008465, 0008487 **BELUR** 9380453339 **FEDGL0159**0013084, 0013085, 0013086, 0013093, 0013107, 0013108 **BTM LAYOUT** 9980764782 **FEDGL0003**0007753, 0007771 **BYADGI** 8970590276 **FEDGL0051**0014286, 0014289, 0014311, 0014319 **Caltex Circle** 9900291944 **FEDGL0102**0017535, 0017537, 0017538, 0017581 **CHANNAPATNA** 9743172738 **FEDGL0176**0021618 **CHENRAYAPATNA** 9739489738 **FEDGL0158**0025584, 0025590, 0025620, 0025621 **CHIKKAMAGALUR** 9164264697 **FEDGL0021**0009591 **DAVANGERE** 9110855606 **FEDGL0229**0011310, 0011330 **Gangavathi** 9972317836 **FEDGL0094**0006881, 0008091, 0008119 **Gubbi** 7760812077 **FEDGL0046**0019599, 0019609, 0019640, 0019694, 0020477 **Gundalpete** 9916977750 **FEDGL0383**0006431 **H D Kote** 8147199881 **FEDGL0058**0012628 **Hagaribommanhalli** 9481555371 **FEDGL0100**0013589, 0013590, 0013620, 0013629, 0013631, 0013632, **FEDBD0100**0000237 **HANSUR** 7760995688 **FEDGL0162**0019156, 0019799 **Harappanahalli** 9945998329 **FEDGL0104**0012336 **HARIHAR** 8147533256 **FEDGL0022**0016519 **HASSAN MARKET** 8970429398 **FEDGL0157**0017288, 0017321, 0017366, 0017371 **HAVERI** 8880914476 **FEDGL0181**0013174, 0013188, 0013189, 0013542 **HENNUR** 8123668156 **FEDGL0015**0005931, 0006151 **HOSA ROAD** 8050825082 **FEDGL0002**0016664, 0018528 **Hosadurga** 8105000953 **FEDGL0412**0007829, 0007850, 0007904 **Hospet** 9743956995 **FEDGL0099**0010755, 0010762, 0010764, 0010771, 0010813 **K R NAGAR** 9901175713 **FEDGL0161**0014373, 0014692, 0014693, 0015652, 0015703, 0015719 **K R Pete** 9880106025 **FEDGL0063**0010455, 0010477, 0012148 **Kadur** 9844224685 **FEDGL0487**0005560, 0005562, 0005598, 0005599, 0005614, 0005619, 0005626, 0005628 **Kampli** 6361077968 **FEDGL0095**0010729, 0010765, 0012275 **Kappogal Road Bellary** 7795211906 **FEDGL0093**0006295, 0006297 **Koppal** 9980073958 **FEDGL0403**0004519, 0004543, 0004547 **Kudligi** 7760491423 **FEDGL0404**0008702, 0008709, 0008713, 0008715, 0008721, 0008726, 0008730, 0008740, 0008747, 0008751, 0008755, 0008779, 0008785, 0008786, 0008794, 0008796, **FEDBD0404**0000431 **KUnigal** 9738833176 **FEDGL0121**0013456, 0013457, 0013465, 0013480 **Madhugiri** 9972981737 **FEDGL0393**0011657, 0011658, 0011660, 0011704, 0011728, 0011732, 0012321 **Malavalli** 9742509190 **FEDGL0365**0007597, 0009291 **Malebennur** 8884276416 **FEDGL0062**0013712 **MANDYA** 8453194687 **FEDGL0163**0009974, 0009997, 0010004, 0010912, 0011014 **Mundargi** 9886453768 **FEDGL0064**0012096, 0012117, 0012119, 0012136 **Nagarbhavi** 7411401115 **FEDGL0031**0007764, 0008837, 0008905 **Nelamangala** 9108850892 **FEDGL0392**0004707 **Pavagada** 9448386998 **FEDGL0377**0013019, 0013023, 0013048, 0013100, 0013122, 0013135, 0013703 **Periapatna** 9449955714 **FEDGL0044**0012354, 0012374 **RAJAJI NAGAR** 7892077716 **FEDDS0004**0000441 **RAMANAGARA** 8197884697 **FEDGL0180**0028553 **RAMASWAMY CIRCLE** 9620136356 **FEDGL0173**0009638, 0009643 **RANEBENNUR** 8904013982 **FEDGL0232**0013150, 0013161 **SHIMOGA** 9513242321 **FEDGL0183**0013516, 0013541 **Sindhanur** 8880890891 **FEDGL0461**0005135, 0005139, 0005149, 0005153, 0005163, 0005172, 0005174, 0005178, 0005179, 0006756 **Sira** 9686864110 **FEDGL0376**0013646, 0013675 **SIRSI** 9945929333 **FEDGL0193**0008896 **SULTHANPLYA** 9353708159 **FEDGL0013**0007728, 0007760 **Tarikere** 9945524645 **FEDGL0415**0005210, 0005239, 0005245 **Tiptur** 9739894909 **FEDGL0047**0012792 **Turuvekere** 9964345178 **FEDGL0386**0008267, 0008305

Change in Venue or Date, if any will be displayed on our Website www.fedfina.com. All bidders participating will be intimated subsequently with respect to acceptance or rejection of bids submitted by them. Customer who want to release their ornaments shall visit at the base branch wherein the ornaments were pledged by the customer or contact at the number mentioned above on/or before 23-10-2025 subject to the terms and condition applicable.

Auction will be conducted at respective branches, in case the auction does not get completed on the given date due to any reasons, the auction in respect thereto shall be conducted on subsequent working days at district level branch after displaying the details on our Website. No further communication shall be issued in this regard.

Dated : 13.10.2025 **For, sd/- Authorised Signatory**
Place : Karnataka **Fedbank Financial Services Ltd.,**

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued **demand notices** to the borrower(s)/ Co-borrowers(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within **60 days** from the receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
1	47050430000398	1) Mr. Siddaraju P S, 2) Mrs. Siddaiah Sannaiah	**24.07.2025, Rs.4,65,245.87** (Rupees Four Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Two Hundred Forty Five and Eighty Seven Paisa Only) **due as on 17-07-2025**	**Date: 09-10-2025 Time: 03:05 PM Symbolic Possession**
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel for the Property Khaneshumari No.415/154/1, measuring East to West 9.753 meters and North to South 8.839 meters, situated at Paduvanagere Village, T Hosahalli Grama Panchayath, Maralavadi Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Property belongs to Mahadevaiah and remaining own property, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Property belongs to Parwathamma, **South by:** Property belongs to Chodaiah and remaining own property.			
2	45350430000710	1) Mr. Girish D, 2) Mrs. Tanuja G C	**28.07.2025, Rs.4,58,507.80** (Rupees Four Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Seven and Eighty Paisa Only) **due as on 24-07-2025**	**Date: 09-10-2025 Date: 01:20 PM Symbolic Possession**
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the Khaneshumari No.18/13 measuring East to West 9,146 meters, North to South 12.195 meters, situated at Mullahalli Village, Mullahalli Grama Panchayath, Uyamballi Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Road, **West by:** House belongs to Gowramma, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Road.			
3	47059630001469 & 47059170008887	1) Mr. Mutharaju C, 2) Mrs. Muddamma	**28.07.2025, Rs.4,09,120.53** (Rupees Four Lakh Nine Thousand One Hundred Twenty and Fifty Three Paisa Only) **due as on 24-07-2025**	**Date: 09-10-2025 Time: 03:30 PM Symbolic Possession**
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel for Property Khaneshumari 106/121, measuring East to West 10.3631 meter and North to South 11.8871 meters, situated Karikaldoddi Village, Avaremala Dhakle, Dyavasandra Grama Panchayath, HarohalliHobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Property belongs to Venkatadasu, **West by:** House belongs to Venkatesh, **North by:** Remaining Own Property, **South by:** Road.			
4	46459410001163 & 46459630000196	1) Mr. Nagaraj M, 2) Mr. Muniyappa P	**17.05.2025, Rs.8,96,829.90** (Rupees Eight Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Nine and Ninety Paisa Only) **due as on 15-05-2025**	**Date: 10-10-2025 Time: 05:00 PM Symbolic Possession**
	Description of the Property: All the piece and parcel of the Property bearing No.347/38, Gramatana E-Katha ID No. 150300402500248, situated at Mallasandra Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, and Bangalore Rural District and **Bounded by the: East by:** Property belongs to Ramappa, **West by:** Property belongs to Ramappa, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Property belongs to Krishnappa. Measuring East to West: 6.096 meters and North to South: 12.192 meters, in all Measuring 55.74 Sq.mtrs.			
5	47050430000843	1) Mr. Shivaraju, 2) Mrs. Nanjamma	**24.07.2025, Rs.5,01,265.61** (Rupees Five Lakh One Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Five and Sixty One Paisa Only) **due as on 17-07-2025**	**Date: 09-10-2025 Time: 12:45 PM Symbolic Possession**
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of Khaneshumari No.989/451/247/23A measuring East to West 24.390 Meters, North to South 7.317 meters, situated at Kodihalli Village Kodihalli Grama Panchayath, kodihalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Remaining own Property, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Property belong to Narayanaswamy, **South by:** House belongs to Gundanna			

Whereas, the Borrowers/ Co-borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby is given to the Borrowers mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrowers/ Co-borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/ Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured Assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Bangalore Rural **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Date: 13.10.2025 **For. Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

Canara Bank RO SOUTH
1st Floor,19,South End Road,Basavanagudi
Bengaluru-560004 Ph:080-26548861

NOTICE FOR PAYMENT OF OVERDUE LOCKER RENT

Sl No	Name & Address of the locker	Account Number	Locker Dues (excluding Penalties	Date of Notice	Branch
1	**Rudra Kumar H S** # 361 10th Cross 8th Main Sastrynagar BSK 2nd Stage 560070	123006323930	9,440.00	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**Ashoka Pillar**
2	**Susheelamma / Puttas**No.3374/2, Ground Floor 13th Cross, K R Road Shastri Nagar 560028	123006291627	7,520.07	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**Ashoka Pillar**
3	**Gayathri N**, # 40, Kathriguppe Main Road, Banashankari 3 Stage 560085	123001539362	8,917.89	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**Banasankari III Stage**
4	**Kavitha S**, W/O Nagaraju N 23/138, Ist B Cross BTM Layout 8th Mn, Munichinnappa L/O 560076	123006110846	14,160.00	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**BTM Layout**
5	**Suchitra Pulikonda**, 307, Vithola Apartments Survey No 46 Kalena Agrahara B G Road 560076	123006109775	8,710.00	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**BTM Layout**
6	**Lakshmidevi R**, 63/2 Reservoir Cross Rd Basavangudi Bangalore 560004	04416030000046	30,491.65	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**DVG Road (Basavanagudi)**
7	**Annapurna R Hegde**, No.50/2,4th Cross, 6th Main, Iii Block Thyagarajanagar 560078	123006870184	15,330.00	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**ISRO Layout**
8	**Keerthi Kumar**, 8 1st Main 1st Cross Nayak Layout B K Circle Jambusavari Dinne 8th Phase J P Nagar 560076	123008081330	17,780.00	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**J P Nagar**
9	**R Srilalitha**, Flat No 106a Mahaveer Palace 24th Main 7th Phase J P Nagar 560078	04846010001830	11,800.00	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**J P Nagar**
10	**Mrs. Kasturi R Rao**, 406 18th Main IV T Block Jayanagar Bangalore 560041 560011	123006436202	9,440.00	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**Jayanagar 4th 'T' Block**
11	**Umesh**, Products Supervisor B210,Spartacess Apartment Jayanagar 4t Block 000000	123006431517	9,440.00	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**Jayanagar 4th 'T' Block**
12	**M. Sarojamma**, 38 7th B Main Jayanagar 4th B 11 Bangalore 560011	123008111842	17,817.00	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**Jayanagar BSNL Complex**
13	**Shivakumar H B**, S/O Boogasiddaiah # 48/1 Doddakalasandra Uttarahalli Hobli 560060	123001194944	17,038.00	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**Konanakunte**
14	**Kempamma**, 3435 Muneeswara T St Shastrinagar Bsk Ii Stage Bangalore 560070	123008073772	9,440.00	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**N R Colony**
15	**Srinivasa Reddy K**, No 11 Sri Rama Mandiram Association No 52 Model House Block Basavanagudi 560004	123008073760	9,440.00	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**N R Colony**
16	**Vanilakshmi K R**,71 6th Cross Ashok Nagar Bangalore 560051	123008073785	9,440.00	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**N R Colony**
17	**Balaram Khandige**, Kandige Farm Po Kumbalgod Bangalore 560082	123008156754	9,440.00	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**Sarakki Layout**
18	**Renu Beriwal**, 53/9 40th Cross 8th Block Jayanagar 560082	123008157054	9,440.00	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**Sarakki Layout**
19	**Sonia Kaushal**, No 8 12 Th Main 5 Th Phase J P Nagar Bangalore 560078	123008156640	9,440.00	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**Sarakki Layout**
20	**Sudhalakshmi Rao K**, F-501, 8 Th Block, Adarsha Residency, 48th Cr,Jayanagar 560070	123005244227	18,880.00	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**Sarakki Layout**
21	**Shubha S**, 191/40,Vignesh Prem Villa 16 Th Main Road,4 Th T Block,J 560041	123006422355	9,440.00	09.07.2025 28.08.2025	**Vijaya College Campus**

"The above-mentioned locker holder is maintaining Locker with **Canara Bank across different Branches as mentioned above.** We have sent various communications in regard to payment of overdue locker rent on the dates mentioned in column 5 of the above table. However the same has not been paid despite various reminders. Hence above mentioned locker holder is once again advised to deposit the overdue rent mentioned in column No. 4 of the above table before **28.10.2025.** In the event of non payment the Bank will drill open the locker at their (locker-holders) cost, expenses and charges entirely at their risk and responsibility after **28.10.2025** of this publication/notice".

Date : 13.10.2025 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bengaluru **Canara Bank**

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STATE BANK OF INDIA

Specialised Personal Banking Branch (Code 06866)
#65, St. Mark's Road, BENGALURU - 560 001

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you that, you have availed locker facility with this Branch of State Bank of India (hereinafter mentioned as bank for brevity) and the under mentioned amounts are due as on date towards recurring charges / maintenance charges / penalties against the assigned sale deposit locker. The Bank had sent 4 notices for which ther is no reply. Hence you may kindly be informed that as per the RBI Circular No.DOR.LEG.REC/40/09-07-005/2021-22 dated 18-08-2021, the Bank had decided to break open the said lockers and settle the arrears by liquidating the assets if any in the said locker. Anyone who wishes to settle the below mentioned arrears and plan to continue/surrender the said lockers may kindly contact the Branch Manager of the Bank or the legal counsel with their due representation in written within 30 days of this public notice failing which Bank will consider as if you had forgone such rights of claim in favour of Bank in accordance with above mentioned RBI Policy.

Sl No	Locker	Total Due (Excluding GST & Penalty	Name of the Customer	Address
1	9	8000	Arzee Ferdosian & Nadjagabadi	No.540, Jalavayu Vihar, Kammanahalli, Bangalore-560084
2	12	8000	Dr. Julie & Annie Justin	162/2, Kamaraja Road, Bangalore-560042
3	14	8000	Angarekharahalli Chikkahanaveguda Gurulingappa & G. Rathna	Hemavati Canal Division, Kibbanhall Cross, Taluka : Tiptur, Dist : Tumkur
4	16	8000	Letty Anne Achankunju & Brigida Dias	12/1, Haves Road, Richmond Town, Bangalore-560025
5	25	8000	Gopi Bai Daswani & Veena Daswani & Sham Daswani	3, Second Cross, Wheeler Road, Bangalore 560005
6	34	8000	Neena R. Chatlani & Mohan B. Chatlani	Flat No.506, A Wing, Ranka Plaza Apartments 157, Wheeler Road, Bangalore-560005
7	51	8000	Robert C. Francis	36/1, Haines Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005
8	60	8000	Mohamed Sait Haji Jaffer & Zulaika Haji Jaffer	4, Museum Road, Bangalore-560001
9	67	16000	Vanajakshi Mayanna	No.379, 42nd Cross, 8th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560082
10	69	16000	YVL Rao & Bhashini Rao	No.5, Prime Street Apartment, F-102, Bangalore-560025
11	79	8000	Sadhana Jaipura & Pradeep Jaipura	165 A, 9th Main, 2nd Floor, Rajamahal Vihar Extension, Bangalore-560080
12	84	8000	Enid Margaret Kishander & Bashil Kishander	46, 6th Cross, Hutchins Road, Bangalore-560084
13	87	16000	Anita Jacob	Christ Cottage, #41, Seshadri Road, Benson Town, Bangalore-560046
14	106	8000	Alan Joseph Chaves & Lorna Chaves	5 O # Shaughnesy Road, # 19/3, Cunningham Road, Bangalore-560001
15	131	8000	Suraiyya Banu Ahmed & Parveez Ahmed	No.6, Nanjappa Road, Shanthinagar, Bangalore-560027
16	150	8000	Nina Sankar Choolani	Flat No.402, Ranka Plaza Aparatment, B Block, 4th Floor, No.157, Wheeler Road, Bangalore-560005
17	204	8000	Sabrina Shruff Simonelli	57/3, Richmond Road, Bangalore-560025
18	205	8000	Tashnim Bora	#16, Vinayaka Nilaya, 6th Cross, 2nd Main, Chandra Layout, Bangalore
19	213	8000	Ravikumar R.	207/1, Cubbonpet, Main Road, Bangalore-560002
20	241	8000	Syed Abdul Gaffer	No.10, Osbura Road Cross, Bangalore-560042
21	261	16000	M. V. Sharada & V. Ravi	1A, Ajantha Apts, 24 Lavelle Road, Bangalore-560001
22	264	16000	Nasir Khan & Gowher Begum	No.46/2, Venkata Ramanaik Lane, SP Road Cross, Banaglore-560002
23	271	16000	Balvinder Marwaha & Inderjeet Marwaha	93, 16th B Main, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore
24	280	16000	Salma Saif & Mohammed Nazim & Ambaneen Nazim	93/13, Nandidurg Road, Bangalore-560046
25	316	8000	E. P. Thacker	10 Rest House Road, Bangalore-560001
26	338	8000	Pankaj M. Shah & Jyoti P. Shah	49, 3rd Cross, Marappa Garden, J.C. Nagar, Bangalore-560006
27	347	8000	Homi Rustamji & Nashir H. Rustamji	30, Norris Road, Bangalore-560025
28	360	8000	Henrietta Meller	YMCA Guest House, Infantry Road, Bangalore-560001
29	361	8000	Khudsia Hanif & Mohamed Hanif	No.32, Norris Road, Richmond Town, Bangalore-560025
30	363	8000	S. R. Susheela Devi & S. Ramakrishna	314, 1st Main Road, Cambridge Layout, Ulsoor, Bangalore-560008
31	377	16000	Abdul Rahman & Mohammed Kaleemulla & Reshma Naz	No.8, Hosur Road Cross, Eagles Street, Langford Town, Bangalore-560025
32	403	32000	H. A. Leenatha	H.No.66, 6th Main, 1st Cross, Defence Colony, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038
33	406	8000	Kavery Nachaya	Kamala Mansion, Flat No.001, 45/2, Promenad Road, Bangalore-560042
34	418	8000	Asha Lapchand & Sudhir Jain & Sharmila Jain	B 3/2, Vijay Kiran Apartments, 32, Victoria Road, Bangalore-560047
35	428	8000	Gautham Reddy	Flat 504, Ebony Residency, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034
36	503	8000	Firosh Mohan P.	474, 5th Main Cross, MSR Nagar, MSRI T Post, Bangalore-560054
37	544	16000	K.B. Harinath & K.B. Prathibha Rani	Upstairs 89/4, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore-560030
38	594	16000	Mumtaz Begum & Syed Abdul Gaffar	No.9/11, Nala Road Cross, Shivaji Nagar, Bangalore-560051
39	599	16000	J. Mahamood Khan & Ruksana Shabbir Gandhi	3/9, Artilary Road, Ulsoor, Bangalore-560008
40	610	16000	Dr. B. Raghu & Girija Raghu & BVV Rama Rao	#35, Lavanya, N.R.Layout, Konnena Agrahara, HAL, Bangalore
41	614	16000	Richard William Alford	12, Commercial Road, Bangalore-560025
42	639	8000	K. Adivayya	79/1, Vazegalli, Vadagaon, Belgaum-5
43	651	8000	Waheeda Khatoon	No.62, Stephens Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005
44	708	8000	Shivakumar Swamy H.L.	No.12, 12th Block, Ananda Rao Circle, Police Quarters, Bangalore-560009
45	733	8000	Gopal Thakur & Anita Gopal Thakur	No.26, Shanti Apartment, Shanti Nagar, Bangalore
46	759	8000	A. Abraham	12, Primrose Road, Bangalore-560025
47	806	8000	M.C. Paramashivaiah & Gayathri Paramashivaiah	52, 1st Floor, 9th Main, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011
48	833	32000	G.A. Thippamma & G.A. Ramesh Babu	167, 1st Floor, MLA Layout, R.T. Nagar, Main Road, Bangalore-560032
49	839	16000	Prabhat Gupta & Anuradha Agarwal	502, New Scientist Hostel, DRDO Township, C.V. Raman Nagar, Bangalore-560093
50	874	16000	Kiranmoy Roy Chaudhari & Sunaina Roy Chaudhari & Arati Roy Chaudhari	27, 8th Main, 5th Cross, Jakasandra Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034
51	892	16000	Jayasree Mandal & Arup Mandal	H-204, Mantri Woodlands, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore
52	904	8000	B.C. Cariappa & Y. T. Cariappa	406, Classique Mansions, Kodihalli, Airport Road, Bangalore-560017
53	943	8000	Valsala Balakrishnan & Sukhi Menon	No.12, English County, Bannerghatta, Bangalore-560083
54	948	8000	Bindiya Sukumaran & Kausalya Sukumaran	503, Tara Apartments 132, Infantry Road , Bangalore-560001
55	959	8000	Valiallah Ali Jain Aj Bishula & Manijah Issazadeh Abri	No.66, 4th Cross, Xavier Layout, Victoria Road, Bangalore-560047
56	961	8000	Muneera Ayub Shaikh	No.1256, B-33, Gr Floor, 2nd Stage, Austin Tower Layout, Neelasandra, Bangalore
57	973	8000	R. Devi Prasad Varma	No.10, Sownanya Kanapura, Anekal, Bangalore
58	979	8000	Shabber Jaffer & Sulaika H. Jaffer	4, Museum Road, Bangalore-560001
59	1010	16000	G.A. Maniar & Saryu G. Maniar	19/1A, 1st Main, Jayamahal Extension, Bangalore-560046

Branch Manager, Legal Counsel for the Bank
J. SATHISH KUMAR, Advocate,
#16/2, 1st Cross, 2nd Main Road, 2nd Stage, KHB Colony, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore - 560079.

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GOVERNMENT MEDICAL SERVICES NO LONGER POCKET-FRIENDLY?

This money is spent in betterment of services to the same patients who visit hospital, says official

RASHMI PATIL @ Bengaluru

AT a time when people find medical bills expensive at private facilities, it appears that medical services even at government hospitals are becoming out of reach for the common man. For instance, the percentage of prices for medical services has increased by 10% at Shri Atal Bihari Vajapayee Medical College and Research Institution (formerly Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital) in Bengaluru from October 1, 2025. These medical services include tests like X-ray, CT scan, ultrasound, issuance of physical fitness certificate and others. Until September, the price of CT scan for abdomen and pelvis was Rs 3,600 and has now increased to Rs 3,960. Similarly, the price for CT scan of thorax was Rs 3,000 and now has increased to Rs 3,300.

Sampangirama, a 70-year old patient at Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institution, said, "The doctor asked me to undergo CT scan for abdomen and pelvis. I thought they would charge around Rs 2,000 but the price is doubled here. If poor people like us have to pay such high price for medical services, then why do we have to visit government hospitals for treatment?"

'ESSENTIAL BUT EXPENSIVE'

Nagesh, another patient aged 42, said, "I am told to undergo CT scan for thorax, pelvis and abdomen. In total, I am asked to pay Rs 7,260. Only if we produce the receipt, will I be allowed to undergo a CT scan." Meanwhile, Lakshmi (name changed), a private company employee had to pay Rs 330 for physical fitness certificate.

Dr Sujata Rathod, Director of Medical Education, Karnataka confirmed that the hike in the price of medical services is applicable across 22 medical colleges affiliated to the Directorate of Medical Education, Karnataka. "Since these medical colleges are autonomous, the increase in the percentage of prices may vary depending on the annual budget of the respective medical college. All the directors of autonomous institutions increase prices considering the maintenance of equipments and salaries of contract employees. This money is spent in the betterment of services to the same patients who visit the government hospital," she said.

Justifying the price hike, she added, "The price increase will not be to an extent that it burdens common man. The prices might have increased by Rs 50 or so but not beyond that. If the patients below poverty line approach the director or dean of the medical college for a concession, then they will waive off the charges. The prices in the government hospitals are lower when compared to the private hospitals."

The price hike is not limited to a single hospital in the city, as the prices were also increased recently in Victoria Hospital affiliated to BMRCI.

"The prices for various medical services are increased by 5 to 10% once in six months or a year. This is done because the medical colleges have to generate their funds for salaries, maintenance of equipment and others. We also inform the concerned departments in the government about the price hike," BMRCI Dean Dr Kavya said.

Meanwhile, Dean of Karnataka Medical College Research Institute, Hubballi, Dr Ishwar Hosamani said, "We had increased the prices by 10% last year and the financial committee of the medical college will decide on when to increase the price and by what percentage."

Lingayat leaders, organisations flay Kaneri seer's abusive remarks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

OVER a 100 Lingayat swamijis condemned Kadasiddheshwara Swamiji of Kaneri Mutt for allegedly using vulgar language, which has gone viral. The National Basava Dal and Lingayat Dharma Mahasabha strongly condemned the seer for repeated derogatory remarks against Lingayat pontiffs and Basava devotees, describing his utterances as "abusive, unconstitutional, and intellectually degenerate". In a statement issued during the 24th Kalyan Parva celebrations at Basavakalyan, the organisations said the pontiff's words had "deeply wounded the Lingayat community". They accused him of acting "like an agent of extremist forces" and demanded that the government take legal action under the Goonda Act.

At an event on October 9 in Biluru village, Jath taluk of Sangli district, the seer allegedly used vulgar language against pontiffs of the Lingayat Mathadhishara Okkuta who led the Basava Culture Campaign, calling them "abusive names" and urging his followers to "beat them with slippers".

The statement said, "This repeated display of abusive behaviour is a disgrace to his seat. He is unworthy to be called a disciple of Siddheshwar Swamiji and has brought shame upon the revered Kaneri Math." The organisations said the seer's outbursts stemmed from the Basava Culture Campaign's success. They warned that if the government fails to act, Basava devotees will respond sharply. Former IAS officer SM Jaamdar, who is now a Lingayat leader, termed the Swamiji's language "extremely vulgar and unbecoming of a pontiff".

RUN IN PALACE CITY

Scion of Mysuru royal family and MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar takes part in a marathon in Mysuru on Sunday | EXPRESS

BJP writes to women's commission over women safety in Karnataka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka BJP has written to the National Commission for Women urging its president to visit Karnataka to review the condition of women in the state.

In the letter, BJP Karnataka women cell president C Manjula said that since May 2023, there has been a rapid increase in the number of rape and murder cases, maternal deaths, and POCSO cases in the state, "which clearly shows that there is a complete lapse of women's safety and security."

She also pointed out the statement of Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara about a woman's body found in a garbage truck and how such incidents are common and cannot be controlled.

Recalling the horrific rape and murder of a girl in Mysuru, Manjula said, "In Koppal district, foreign nationals were raped. In Haveri, a minority woman was gangraped. We demanded a special investigation team. Some sexual harassment cases are also being reported in the Malnad districts and Haveri. But no measures have been taken so far," she said, claiming that there has been an increase in POCSO cases in Raichur.

Further, Manjula claimed that medicines for neonatal mothers were being purchased from local vendors without checking the quality of medicines in taluk and district hospitals. This is also one of the reasons for the increase in maternal deaths across the state, Manjula said.

Manjula urged the commission to appoint a special officer to monitor crimes against women in Karnataka and another officer for Bengaluru. "No review meeting has been held conducted by the CM or home minister or any other minister. This has to be reviewed too," she urged the Commission.

Don't let MES hold black day on Kannada Rajyotsava: KRV

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

KARNATAKA Rakshana Vedike (KRV) president TA Narayana Gowda on Sunday urged the district administration and police not to allow the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES) to observe a "Black Day" as a counter to Karnataka Rajyotsava celebrations this year.

Inaugurating a Kannada Deekshe programme, organised by his faction of KRV at Gandhi Bhavan in Belagavi, he said, "MES has now become a toothless snake. If authorities permit it to mark a black day, Belagavi will turn into a battlefield."

He urged Kannada activists not to remain passive if such an event takes place. "If MES observes a black day instead of celebrating the state festival, our workers must respond. Do not fear going to jail. I will be there to get you released," he declared.

Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing, Kancheepuram
(An Institute of National Importance established by MoE, Govt. of India)
Melakottaiyur, Chennai-600127, Tamil Nadu, India

TENDER NOTICE

IIITDM Kancheepuram invites ONLINE bids (e-tender) in two bids systems for the following items / services:

Sl No.	Tender Number	Item Description	Last date of receipt of tender
1.	IIITDMK/25-26/SP/HPC/011 Dt 03/10/25	Supply, installation, commissioning, testing and acceptance of high performance computing (HPC) systems	03-Nov-2025, 03:00 PM
2.	IIITDMK/25-26/SP/COM/013 Dt 09/10/25	Supply and Installation of Desktop and Workstation Computers on buyback basis	10-Nov-2025, 03:00 PM
3.	GEM/2025/B/6762660 Dt 07/10/25	Providing Security Services at IIITDM Kancheepuram	28-Oct-2025, 05:00 PM

Tender documents / details are available on the GeM / CPP portal and Institute website http://www.iiitdm.ac.in.
Registrar

A walkathon was organised by Dr SR Chandrasekhar Institute of Speech and Hearing on the occasion of World Mental Health Day. Institute's Chairman Lion Krishna Reddy, Treasurer Lion Shantavadhan and Secretary CA DL Suresh Babu led the walkathon

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami on Sunday said that cracks have started to appear in the DMK alliance. The Congress, which is an ally of the DMK, has started to ask for more seats to contest for next year's assembly polls, he said, citing media reports

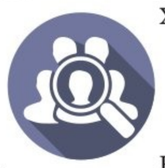
Vigilance probe on in Wintrack case

CBIC transfers Chennai Air Cargo Customs chief, probe expected to be completed in 4-5 weeks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

TEN days after private firm Wintrack levelled corruption allegations against Chennai Air Cargo Customs, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on Saturday transferred the agency's principal commissioner and deputy commissioner.

Principal Commissioner M G Thamizh Valavan, who was heading Chennai Airport and Air Cargo Customs, and Deputy Commissioner Harendra Singh Pal were transferred to the Director General of Taxpayer Service (DGTS) and the Directorate General of Performance Management (DGPM), respectively.



An experienced Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, Thamizh Valavan has served in several senior CBIC positions, including the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI). He was appointed as Chennai Air Customs chief in April. During his six-month tenure, he continued the strict measures introduced to curb gold smuggling at the airport and implemented significant administrative changes.

According to a post on its X profile, CBIC said it had initiated a vigilance investigation after receiving a factual inquiry report from the Union Department of Revenue (DoR) regarding Wintrack's allegations. The DoR's preliminary inquiry found prima facie evidence that warranted a probe, which is expected to be completed within four to six weeks.

The action follows Wintrack's allegations of corruption and harassment by Chennai Customs officials over clearing their cargo imported from China. The accusations ignited public debate over alleged corruption in Indian Customs, with prominent figures such as Mohandas Pai, Chairman of Manipal Global Education Services, and Member of Parliament Shashi Tharoor expressing support for importers and citizens claiming to have faced similar difficulties.

TEMPLE IRREGULARITIES

Sabari row: SIT records statement of TN firm CEO

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ T'puram

THE Special Investigation Team (SIT) has commenced its probe into the missing gold from the Sabarimala temple. The team visited the office of a Chennai-based firm where the gold-plating work was carried out and recorded the statement of its CEO, Pankaj Bhandari.

The SIT officers also visited Sannidhanam and reportedly interacted with officials there. The plates of the temple's Dwarapalaka idols were gold-plated by Smart Creations, a Chennai-based firm that has been engaged in gold-plating and repair work for about four decades.

According to the Devaswom Vigilance officer's report, 12 parts of the Dwarapalaka idols were sent to Chennai for gold-plating. Of these, four parts reportedly suffered damage and loss of sheen, while work was completed on the remaining eight parts at Smart Creations.

Meanwhile, the SIT is expected to soon record the statements of all 10 individuals listed as accused in the FIRs. The Crime Branch had earlier registered two cases in connection with the missing gold from Sabarimala artifacts. In one of the cases, members of the Travancore Devaswom Board from May 2019 have been listed as accused, though none of their names were mentioned in the FIR. At the time, A Padmakumar was the Devaswom Board president, while K P Sankar Das and K Raghavan were members.

Reacting to the development, Padmakumar said neither he nor the board had made any mistakes regarding Sabarimala temple affairs. He added that he was unaware of being implicated in the case and said it was up to the court to determine if there had been any lapses. Padmakumar also stated that the prime accused, Unnikrishnan Potti, had been associated with Sabarimala since 2007.

Vizag to be trillion-dollar economy by 2047: Lokesh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Visakhapatnam

ANDHRA Pradesh HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh has said Visakhapatnam will be developed as Andhra Pradesh's economic capital with a vision to transform it into a trillion-dollar economy by 2047.

On Sunday, he laid the foundation stone for Vizag's first AI-powered Edge Data Centre and Open Cable Landing Station, which will be developed by Sify Infinit Spaces Limited, a subsidiary of Nasdaq-listed Sify Technologies. Speaking at the ceremony at A1 Grand Convention in Rushikonda, Lokesh recalled that when IT companies were attracted to Hyderabad in the 1990s, the then ChiefMinister Nara Chandrababu Naidu developed Cyber Towers, which played a key role in the city's growth. "Hyderabad took more than 30 years to reach its current level of development. Visakhapatnam will achieve this in just over a decade.," he asserted. He said over the past 17 months, more than 50% of $120 billion investments coming to Andhra Pradesh were directed to the Greater Visakhapatnam Economic Region. "The region will host the country's largest steel plant, marking the largest foreign direct investment in India'. These are expected to create a robust economic ecosystem, including 20 lakh jobs nationwide, with five lakh IT positions in Visakhapatnam alone," he opined.

AIADMK, TVK using stampede victims' kin for poll gain: DMK

AGENCIES @Chennai

DMK organisation secretary RS Bharathi on Sunday charged that the AIADMK and TVK are misusing the family members of Karur stampede victims for political motives.

In a statement here, Bharathi said on behalf of Panneerselvam, who has lost his son, and Selvaraj, who has lost his wife in the stampede, petitions have been filed seeking a CBI inquiry into incident. Panneerselvam's wife revealed that he had abandoned her and son, but has filed a case seeking a CBI inquiry just for the solatium announced by the TVK.

Similarly, certain AIADMK functionaries obtained the signature of Selvaraj by deceiving him and filed a petition seeking a CBI probe. Selvaraj himself has said that he was not even aware that a case had been filed in his name before the Supreme Court. He had also questioned, "Why are you hiding behind the CBI?" "But now, in the Karur case, TVK itself has deceitfully obtained signatures from the families of the deceased and filed a petition seeking a CBI inquiry by tempting them with money."

The DMK leader said it has become crystal clear that TVK has done this with the covert support of AIADMK and BJP.

RAIN HAVOC

People navigate through a waterlogged road in Thiruvananthapuram after heavy rain on Sunday. Kerala continues to experience intermittent showers, as IMD warned of moderate to heavy rainfall accompanied by thunder and lightning over several districts in the coming days | BP DEEPU

Bengal rape survivor's father wants her shifted to Bhubaneswar

AGENCIES @Bhubaneswar

THE father of a 23-year-old woman, who was allegedly gangraped in West Bengal's Durgapur, on Sunday appealed to the Odisha government to shift her to Bhubaneswar for treatment, citing a threat to her life.

The survivor, a second-year MBBS student, is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital in Durgapur.

"I appeal to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to help shift my daughter to Bhubaneswar. I fear that her life may be in danger," the father told PTI over phone from Durgapur.

The Dalit woman was allegedly raped by three men while she had gone out of the campus with a male student around 8pm on Friday, officials said.

The student's father said the family felt unsafe in West Bengal and was "too frightened to trust anyone".

"They (not taking any name) will kill my daughter. Her health condition has improved, but there is danger to her life. I cannot trust them," he said.

"I am hiding in Durgapur, while my wife, a diabetic, stands at the bedside of our daughter in the hospital," he added.

Asked about West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's reported remark that girls should not venture out of campus at night, the father said: "This is completely false. I see an attempt to suppress the incident. My daughter had not gone out at midnight' it was just 8 pm on Friday."

He further alleged that the survivor had gone out with a male companion who fled the scene during the attack and did not alert anyone.

"The survivor's condition is gradually improving. We have assured the family that the Odisha government stands firmly with them. Necessary coordination is being maintained with the West Bengal Police," Mohanty said.

Meanwhile, BJP leaders from Odisha, including Union Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, expressed outrage over the alleged gangrape of an Odia medical student in Durgapur and urged West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to ensure a fair probe into the incident.

Pradhan termed the incident "despicable and painful" and urged Banerjee to ensure strict punishment to the culprits.

DEVI AWARDS

Honouring the unstoppable spirit of women

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

THE ballroom at ITC Kakatiya glowed with purpose as The New Indian Express brought the Devi Awards back to the city after nine years — celebrating women who embody resilience, leadership, and grace.

Instituted in 2014 by TNIE Group, the awards honour women who have broken barriers and redefined success across diverse fields. Since their inception in New Delhi, 33 editions have been held across the country, recognising around 405 exceptional women. Lakshmi Menon, CEO of TNIE, said the awards celebrated women "who shatter glass ceilings, rewrite codes, and lead with courage and conviction". She added, "As we stand in the proud heart of Telangana, we salute women who have been pioneers, from social reformers to entrepreneurs, technology innovators to artists. The women of Telangana can run enterprises, lead the nation toward change and still ensure that their families are cared for. Their unstoppable spirit makes this land home to many inspiring leaders and changemakers." The awards were presented by Justice V Ramasubramanian, chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission and former judge of the Supreme Court, in the presence of Prabhu Chawla, editorial director of TNIE Group.

From top left to right: Mrunalini Rao (Designer), Rekha Lahori (CEO, Kalakriti India), Dr Rashna Bhandari (Scientist), Anjani Reddy (Painter), Justice V Ramasubramanian (Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission & Chief Guest), Prabhu Chawla (Editorial Director, TNIE), Dr Palukuri Lakshmi (Surgeon), T Kalyan Chakravarthy (Resident Editor, TNIE, Telangana), Bottom left to right - A representative on behalf of Anu Acharya (Entrepreneur), Lakshmi Menon (CEO, TNIE), Elahe Hiptoola (Filmmaker), Saraswathi Malluvalasa (Entrepreneur), Talluri Pallavi (Innovator) and Shreya Paropkari (Advocate), pose for a group picture during the 3rd edition of Devi Awards Hyderabad at ITC Kakatiya in Hyderabad on Sunday | SRI LOGANATHAN VELMURUGAN

This year's awardees reflected a broad range of achievement: filmmaker Elahe Hiptoola, advocate Shreya Paropkari, scientist Dr Rashna Bhandari, entrepreneurs Saraswathi Malluvalasa and Anu Acharya, painter Anjani Reddy, surgeon Dr Palukuri Lakshmi, designer Mrunalini Rao, Kalakriti India CEO Rekha Lahoti, and innovator Talluri Pallavi.

Justice Ramasubramanian said, "When Prabhu Chawla sent me a message last week, after boarding a flight to Amsterdam, requesting me to make myself available for this award function, I readily agreed for two reasons. The first is that today, if there is a media house that still maintains certain ethical standards, it is The New Indian Express. The second is that its Tamil counterpart, Dinamani, made me a writer of things other than judgments. I was only writing judgments in court, and now judges are required to affirm that they are indeed writing judgments! But Dinamani made me a writer in Tamil.Citing an old New York Times report, Justice Ramasubramanian noted that several of India's leading financial institutions, including HSBC, JPMorgan Chase, the Royal Bank of Scotland, UBS, Fidelity International, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank , were led by women. "The report concluded that no woman led a bank in the US or the UK at that time," he said. "We have made great progress, but we still have miles to go."

This year's edition, he said , coincides with the 50th anniversary of International Women's Year, first celebrated in 1975.

Five drown in Vadaveru beach in AP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

In a tragic incident, five engineering students from VIT University, Amaravati, drowned while three others were rescued at Vadarevu Beach in Chirala of Bapatla district on Sunday evening.

According to police, the mishap occurred around 5 pm when eight students ventured into the sea for a swim and were caught in strong currents. While three managed to swim back to safety, five were swept away.

The victims were identified as Saketh, Manideep, Satwik, Somesh, and Gowtham. The group had reportedly visited the beach to spend their holiday together.

Local fishermen and police, along with expert swimmers, launched rescue operations soon after the incident. The bodies of Saketh, Manideep, and Satwik were recovered later in the evening, while the search continues for Somesh and Gowtham, who remain missing.

Teams from the Chirala police, fire department, and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) continued the search operations till late in the night. Aerial searches were also conducted along the coastline with the help of a helicopter.

Bapatla Superintendent of Police B Umamaheswar Rao said that the rescue efforts were being hampered by high tides but assured that intensive searches were underway.

EXPRESS READ

Cough syrup deaths: Annamalai says TN drug controllers did not attend training session

Madurai: Tamil Nadu BJP former president K Annamalai on Sunday alleged that the state's drug controllers never attended the training sessions held by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission and sought explanation from Chief Minister M K Stalin. His remarks come in the wake of the investigation against the Kanchipuram-based manufacturer of Coldrif cough syrup, linked to the deaths of children in Madhya Pradesh. Licensed in 2011 by the Tamil Nadu Food and Drug Administration, Sresan Pharma continued operations unchecked for over a decade despite multiple violations of national drug safety rules, Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation said.

Actor Dulquer Salmaan approaches customs for release of vehicle

Kochi: Actor Dulquer Salmaan has filed an application before the Commissionerate of Customs Preventive (CCP), Kochi, for the release of his seized car, a 2004 model Land Rover Defender. He submitted the application via his lawyers after the High Court, while considering his plea on Tuesday, directed Dulquer to approach the adjudicating authority under the Customs Act for the release of his vehicle. The court also directed the assistant commissioner of customs, Kochi to consider the actor's application for provisional release after granting him an opportunity for a personal hearing.

3rd case of brain fever in Palakkad

Palakkad: A 62-year-old man from Olassery in Kodumba panchayat has been diagnosed with amoebic meningoencephalitis, commonly known as amoebic brain fever. This is the third confirmed case in the district. The patient is currently on ventilator support at Thrissur Medical College Hospital (MCH). He first sought treatment at the Kodumba primary health centre on October 5 after developing symptoms. He was later referred to the Koduvayur community health centre and subsequently moved to the district hospital. The next day, doctors observed preliminary signs of amoebic infection. Meanwhile, the health department has begun inspections and measures in the surrounding areas.

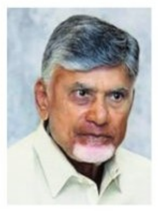
Naidu orders SIT probe into liquor case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

ANDHRA Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the spurious liquor scam in Andhra Pradesh, highlighting potential links to production techniques learned in Africa.

Addressing the media at his camp office, Naidu revealed that the SIT, comprising GVG Ashok Kumar, Rahul Dev Sharma, K Chakravarthi, Mallika Garg, and an excise department expert, will conduct a thorough probe to uncover the truth. He emphasized that no one involved, regardless of political affiliations, will escape accountability.

He disclosed that in the Mulakalacheruvu spurious liquor case, 23 accused have been identified, with 16 arrested, including key suspect Janardhan. In a related Ibrahimpatnam case, 12 individuals were identified, with seven arrests and four PT warrants issued.



The Chief Minister stated that the investigations are revealing shocking details, with arrests bringing critical facts to light. He accused certain groups of adopting illicit liquor production methods from Africa and implementing them in Andhra Pradesh under political cover, vowing stringent action against those responsible. "There will be no compromise," he asserted, and pointed out that when his own partymen were accused, they were suspended without a second thought.

Naidu criticized the previous YS Jagan Mohan Reddy government for promoting substandard liquor, legalizing illicit systems, and forcibly controlling distilleries, transport, and retail operations.

He alleged that ganja was treated as a commercial crop, worsening the drug menace.

Highlighting past negligence, Naidu pointed to the lack of response to 27 deaths in Jangareddigudem due to spurious liquor, contrasting it with his government's swift action, including ordering tests after a single death in Eluru.

EDITORIAL

"If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants" — Isaac Newton

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

INDIA AND TALIBAN: A PRACTICAL SHIFT AS POWER TURNS

INDIA'S decision to upgrade its Technical Mission in Kabul to a full-fledged embassy marks a significant recalibration of its Afghanistan policy. This shift is driven less by ideological alignment and more by strategic necessity. Without formally recognising the Taliban regime, New Delhi signals a willingness to engage, reshape regional influence, and protect core interests in a volatile neighbourhood. That's the need of the geopolitical hour.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's meeting with Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in New Delhi wasn't just for optics. It was a clear articulation of India's intent to re-anchor its presence in Afghanistan, where its development footprint—roads, dams, schools, hospitals—has long stood in contrast to Pakistan's coercive involvement.

This comes as Taliban–Pakistan ties grow increasingly hostile. Muttaqi's unusually blunt warning to Islamabad to "stop playing games with Afghanistan" during the New Delhi presser reflects a hardening stance. Amid accusations of Pakistani airstrikes and border provocations, India finds itself in a rare position of advantage. Once on the sidelines after the Taliban's 2021 return, Kabul is now courting India for investment, aid and engagement. New Delhi, cautious but rightly opportunistic, is stepping into the vacuum. From gifting ambulances and food aid to helping in earthquake reconstruction, the outreach is both humanitarian and strategic. India is also considering Afghan requests for water resource management and mining investments, sectors long eyed by China and Pakistan.

The Chabahar port—India's alternative trade route bypassing Pakistan—now becomes even more relevant. With Afghan leaders seeking to deepen trade with India and bypass hostile corridors, New Delhi's earlier investments in Iran's port infrastructure gain fresh traction, enhancing connectivity, influence, and leverage. Security cooperation underpinned the talks. India acknowledged Kabul's "sensitivity" to its terrorism concerns—a nod to the Taliban's recent cooperation post-Pahalgam attack. However, the threat of cross-border terror remains real.

By reopening its embassy—a strategic move among regional powers—India isn't endorsing the Taliban regime yet. It is reasserting its stake in Afghanistan's future. In a region where the tables are quietly turning, this is pragmatic statecraft—rooted in realism and driven by national interest. India must be mindful of the opportunities and perils ahead.

Symbolic though small, the belated inclusion of women journalists at the Taliban minister's press conference must not go unremarked—it reflects pressures that the world must keep up and India must quietly note.

TATA SONS MUST REVISIT 'NO-LISTING' STANCE

THE $180-billion Tata Group contributes four percent to India's GDP and is seen as synonymous with corporate governance and stability. There have been blips in the past, such as when Ratan Tata led the ouster of Cyrus Mistry, chairman of Tata Sons and a representative of the minority Shapoorji Pallonji (SP) Group, in December 2016. When the discord in Tata Trusts, which holds 66 percent in Tata Sons, prompted ministers Amit Shah and Nirmala Sitharaman to step in, it rocked the corporate world. Current events show that tensions from Mistry's ouster still persist, with the SP group, holding an 18.4 percent stake, refusing to relent.

The blowout came last month at a board meeting when a faction of four trustees—Mehli Mistry, cousin of Cyrus Mistry, and three others—blocked the reappointment of long-time nominee Vijay Singh. The majority faction led by Noel Tata is furious at the SP Group for breaking the tradition of relying on private consultation and consensus. The Mehli Mistry faction has, on the other hand, raised governance issues; but its obvious underlying push is to raise its old demand: the public listing of Tata Sons, which will allow it to sell its shares at the best market rate.

The majority Tata faction has consistently resisted a public listing, fearing a diluted holding would weaken the Tata Trusts' control over Tata Sons, leaving the company vulnerable to a hostile takeover. Perhaps it is time the Tatas reviewed their stand and considered embracing a public listing. Doing so would enhance transparency and governance for India's largest conglomerate, and potentially bring lasting corporate peace. In fact, in 2022, the RBI classified Tata Sons as an 'upper layer' non-banking financial company (NBFC), mandating it to publicly list by September 2025. Though Tata Sons, in the interim, has surrendered its NBFC licence, the SP Group has used the opportunity to revive its demand. After Cyrus Mistry's ouster in 2016, it was expected that the SP Group would sell out and exit. However, that can only happen if the debt-laden SP Group has the window for an IPO. For the Tatas, pursuing a public listing now would facilitate this closure and reinforce their control, given Tata Trusts' majority stake. Maintaining focus on the trusts' social initiatives will benefit from such a decisive move.

QUICK TAKE

WORD WRECK

SPELLINGS can be bad, but this extreme? A drawing teacher in Himachal Pradesh got suspended for writing a cheque that said, "Saven Thursday six Harendra sixty rupees". The numbers were fine—₹7,616—but the words were a disaster. Ironically, typos riddled his suspension order: "Educatition", "Princpal". Director, Education Rajiv Thakur shrugged—they're "clerical mistakes". Power, it seems, decides which mistakes matter. The teacher is in unusual company: In May, US Secretary of Education Linda McMahon wrote to Harvard banning federal grants. A version of her letter, spellings and grammar corrected in red ink, went viral—though no one knows who posted it. Wonder if English is still an alien language.

Several facts and facets of the RSS's extraordinary history remain not properly explained or understood. No wonder it has remained somewhat of an enigma for many

TIME FOR A SAMVAD ON THE SANGH

MAKARAND R PARANJAPE
Author and commentator

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

SOURAV ROY

VIJAYADASHAMI, the tenth day of the waxing moon in India's national calendar, also known as the Saka Samvat coincided with the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2 this year. This auspicious day marks the triumph of good over evil, the slaying of the demonic Mahishasura by Goddess Durga, and the return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya after killing Ravana.

This day was observed nationwide as the 100th anniversary of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's foundation. The release of a commemorative postage stamp crowned celebrations. The achievements of the Sangh, despite decades of negative propaganda and misinformation, are too numerous and incontrovertible to deny.

However, like all great things, the precise beginnings of the RSS are also difficult to pin down. In fact, not just its exact, determinate commencement, but several other facts and facets of its extraordinary history right up to the present times remain not properly explained, let alone fully understood. No wonder, for many outside the fold, the RSS has remained somewhat of an enigma.

Few, for instance, know that what actually transpired on Vijayadashami 1925 in Nagpur was only an informal gathering of a small band of young patriots and nationalists, at the behest of Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar. Doctorji, as he was popularly known, was then thirty-six years of age. Trained and qualified in the famous Calcutta Medical College as a physician, Hedgewar, on his return to Nagpur, devoted himself to national service rather than his medical practice.

Even the name of the organisation was then undecided and took close to seven months to finalise on April 17, 1926. In fact, several names cropped up, but none were accepted by all. Finally, it came down to three: Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh, Jaripataka Mandal, and Bhadratoddharak Mandal. We know which one won, and with hindsight, rightly so.

Even the Sangh's unique methodology of assembly daily in shakhas or branches took some time to crystallise. The very first one was held on May 28, 1926, in Mohitewada, where part of the RSS headquarters stands to this day.

The colonial authorities, whose hawk eyes rarely missed any sign of dissent, let alone revolt, believed that the Sangh was little more than an open-air gymnasium, a slightly innovative version of a traditional akhara. They were, of course, quite mistaken. For the Sangh's goal was nothing short of a total reconstruction of the nation, especially Hindu society.

But why 'Sangh'? This question is not answered clearly in secondary literature.

The idea of the Sangha has been so important to Indian civilisation since before the Buddha. One of the Tathagata's three vows to *bhikkhus* was "*Sangham saran gacchami*"—I take refuge or surrender to the Sangha.

Our amelioration, the wise one taught, was collective, not individual. The broader collective takes priority over the liberation of an individual. No wonder the RSS also advocates for its members and cadres, the goal of service to society and nation.

Just over a hundred years ago, Sri Aurobindo, in his letter to his younger brother Barindra, wrote: "You will perhaps ask, 'What is the need of a sangh? Let me be free and fill every vessel. Let all become one, let all take place within that vast unity.' All this is true, but it is only one side of the truth. Our business is not with the formless Spirit only; we have to direct life as well. … We do not want to exclude any of the world's activities. Politics, trade, social organisation, poetry, art, literature—all will remain. But all will be given a new life, a new form. … But now the time has come to take hold of the substance instead of extending the shadow. We have to awaken the true soul of India and to do everything in accordance with it. … But in the temple of India we want not Hanuman but the Godhead, the Avatar, Rama himself".

The letter, which analyses what ails India and what must be done, is so movingly relevant even today. I have only quoted excerpts from it, to suggest the atmosphere and situation, whence the deeper impulses of the formation of the Sangh. The general dissatisfaction with the main thrust of the freedom movement, so obsessed if not handicapped by Gandhian *ahimsa* and moralism, combined with the rising threat of Muslim separatism in the subcontinent, no doubt encouraged by colonial power in its last gasp.

Sri Aurobindo's clarion call to reawaken the soul of India, such that in the temple of India, not only Hanuman, representing might, but Sri Rama, the Godhead, the Avatar, Divinity itself, might take his rightful place, would surely resonate with the restoration of Ram Janmabhoomi, the birth-shrine of Lord Rama, which occurred in January 2024.

To me, the purpose of the true Sangha, from the Buddha to RSS, would be to inspire and shape a spiritualised and exalted "life divine" on earth, which Sri Aurobindo fleetingly refers to in his letter but spent much of his energies conceptualising and creating.

It is only from the loftiest ideals of our civilisation that the limitations and drawbacks of the Sangh, such as they are, might be viewed. Not as failings or pitfalls, but steps on the way, given the present stage of evolution of Hindu and Indian society.

Thus, the ultimate aim of a centennial cogitation would dare to go beyond the official narrative, enforcing or admiring the Sangh's innumerable accomplishments or even the removal of misunderstandings.

I called my latest book, *Hindutva and Hind Swaraj: History's Forgotten Doubles*, a 'Swaraj Samvad'. Perhaps, what we need, in a similar spirit, is a 'Sangh Samvad' commemorating RSS@100.

Because merely praise, let alone blame, on such an occasion will not suffice. What we need is nothing less than a meditation on the meaning of Sangh as it—and a grateful nation—celebrates its 100th birth anniversary.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @MakrandParanspe)

SERPENT'S GIFT: FORTUNE AND FATALITY

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

SNAKES have a bad name in Semitic mythology because the devil, in the guise of a serpent, tempted Eve to eat the forbidden fruit, although it was scarcely the fault of actual serpents that their form came in handy for lurking about in trees.

However, Nagas or snakes are highly respected in the Indic culture of South and Southeast Asia, as wise and powerful beings who serve the greatest gods. This fortnight marks two major Naga-centred Buddhist festivals out East. Bang Fai Phaya Nak (Naga Fireball Festival) took place on October 7 in Nong Khai city, Thailand. This festival features a mysterious event where glowing fireballs rise from the Mekong River, which folklore attributes to the Naga spirits in the water. Coming up, Boun Lai Heua Fai on October 18 in Laos is a festival to honour the Nagas and to ask for good luck.

Nagas are considered affectionate, generous, and generally supportive of human beings, but they also need to be tiptoed around carefully because they can be moody and sensitive. They are also said to be most finicky about polite behaviour. In the old days, it was considered good training in the ways of the world to be taught how to address snakes properly in their shrines, which are commonly found in temples.

Here, an old story from the Panchatantra comes to mind about human beings and snakes. A poor farmer named Haridatt lay down one afternoon for a nap in the shade of a tree by his field. When he awoke, he saw a snake gliding out of an anthill nearby. Saluting the Nag Devta as the guardian of his fields from rats and mice, he left a bowl of milk for it before going home. The next day, he was amazed to see a gold coin left in the milk bowl.

This became a pattern and prevailed for many days. Haridatt grew very prosperous and built himself a fine, new homestead with rafters of the best teak and many outlying barns and sheds. He bought the adjoining fields of his neighbours, dug new wells, had water channels made, and, naturally, being an Indian farmer, bought a whole herd of fine milch cows. He also bought two strong buffaloes to turn the oil press he built for the village. He began to take an interest in pilgrimage and donated freely to the post-monsoon restoration of the local temple. On his own initiative, he built a dharmashala or rest house for travellers.

To explain his sudden wealth, he spread a clever, imaginary tale about being blessed by an itinerant holy man, and being led after that through a dream to a cache of gold buried under a tree well off the king's highway.

The villagers bought the story. They began to look up to Haridatt, and so did the local feudal lord, who invited him to his daughter's wedding. Whenever the king's revenue officer came to collect tax from the village, he stayed at Haridatt's house, and told anyone who would listen that there was no better host in a radius of a hundred *kos*. Haridatt was now so well set up that there was not a single comfort lacking in his life. He was healthy, wealthy, and extremely happy. He had enough to house, feed, clothe, and marry off the next seven generations of his family. His wife had believed his story completely, and by the time his children grew older, they were so used to prosperity that they never thought to ask how their father had grown so rich. Haridatt had taken to wearing a solid gold bracelet with a snake etched on it, which he drolly referred to as his lucky charm. Even the village priest, normally the single window for such magicking, was content to smile indulgently.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

One time when Haridatt needed to travel for a couple of days, he found that he grudged having to miss even one day's yield. He had never minded before because the snake's excellent manners made it repay every milk offering, but this time he minded it very much, unaware that the poison of greed had contaminated his mind

However, one time when Haridatt needed to travel to a place nearby for a couple of days, he found that he grudged having to miss even one day's yield of a gold coin. He had never minded before because the snake's excellent manners made it repay every bowl of milk, but this time he minded it very much, unaware that the poison of greed had contaminated his mind.

Without going into details, he told his eldest son to take a bowl of milk to the snake that lived by the anthill. The next morning, when the son saw the gold coin, he thought, "There must be so many gold coins under this spot. I will kill the snake tomorrow and take them all." The next day, when he saw the snake emerging, he aimed a blow at its head with his stout bamboo lathi.

The snake recoiled in pain and bit the young man, who died right there, writhing in agony. The villagers found him and promptly cremated him as was the custom. When Haridatt came home to this horrible news, he grieved bitterly for his son. But so deep was his addiction to the gold coins that he went back the next day to the anthill with a bowl of milk as usual, and praised the snake as his benefactor.

The snake came out and surveyed Haridatt with contempt. "I despise your greed," it said. "Your son struck my head and I bit him in rage. How can I forget the blow, or you, his death?"

Scrupulously correct to the end, it let fall a large diamond in return for the bowl of milk, and vanished forever, leaving Haridatt wholly stricken.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Self's fragility

Ref: *Blurring lines between public and private* (Oct 12). Work is like a rubber ball—if dropped, it bounces back. But family, health and friends are like glass; once damaged, they may never be the same. Life is not a race but a journey to be cherished.
Md Hammad, Mumbai

Unsafe reality

Ref: *Odisha MBBS student raped* (Oct 12). The alleged rape of the student is a chilling reminder of the unsafe reality for women—even in spaces meant for healing and learning. Both West Bengal and Odisha reflect a disturbing failure in ensuring basic safety. It's time we raised our standards—ensuring dignity and safety should be the bare minimum.
Anwesha Mishra, email

Valiant Machado

Ref: *Venezuela's Iron Lady* (Oct 12). María Corina Machado's fearless resistance against authoritarian rule inspires the entire world. Such honours serve as encouragement for all who stand up for justice and liberty. Her courage and determination remain a shining example of how the values of democracy can prevail even in the face of oppression.
Murshida P P, Kannur

Deficient justice

Ref: *Mother of all goof ups* (Oct 12). The acquittal of Dashwanth is deeply shocking. What is even more distressing is the silence from political parties and authorities who have failed to secure justice for the victim's family. It leaves one feeling helpless, realising how difficult it is to obtain justice without powerful political support.
S Sundareswara Pandiyan, Kovur

Trump's bravado

Ref: *The ugly Indian migrant* (Oct 12). Vote-hungry politicians adopt xenophobia as their best bet. Donald Trump has picked up from where Adolf Hitler left. The solution seems to be to find pride in one's own motherland. There's no comfort anywhere other than in one's own home.
George Jacob, Kochi

Dharmic pulse

Ref: *Is Lingayat a caste or a religion?* (Oct 12). There's a growing habit of dissecting Dharma through sociological scalpels—turning living philosophies into case studies. Sanatana Dharma evolves through those who see, not through those who merely interpret. Basava didn't oppose Dharma; he purified its expression. Dharmic insight's pulse is lost when filtered through academic cleverness.
Sandeep Sharma, Bangalore

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Supriya Shrinate @SupriyaShrinate
Good to see women journalists actively participating at the Afghanistan embassy press conference! In India, we celebrate inclusivity. Don't you ever single out or exclude women.

Mahua Moitra @MahuaMoitra
Taliban escorted by super statesman @myogiadityanath. UP Muslims bulldozed, abused, dehumanised & victimised by this same mini Fanta.

Amit Malviya @amitmalviya
Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition, left for South America on September 26... Where exactly is Rahul Gandhi, and what is he doing in South America?

First tri-services exercise held against aerial threat

Prowess of indigenous drone tech, unmanned vehicles on display

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

THE first ever tri-services military exercise held to simulate aerial threats and defence response turned out to be a major display of indigenous capabilities. "The drones, unmanned aerial vehicles and the defence responses, including the counter drone and jamming equipment, have been majorly produced in India." told a source said.

It was also to bring together every stakeholder (Army, Navy and Air Force), simulate all possible scenarios and employ their counter "to stay ahead of the adversaries after drawing the lessons from Operation Sindoor," the source added.

Operation Sindoor launched in May to destroy terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK saw a major use of drones from both India and Pakistan armed forces.

In a short time, drones have become an integral part of the military as they minimise danger to human life and come at a low cost but have result oriented high impact, the source added. While the expansion in drone technology continues, this exercise is also going to help in formulating the drone doctrine, the source added.

'Cold Start' highlights importance of tech innovation

Cold Start, HQ IDS adds, underscores India's growing emphasis on technological innovation, interoperability and tri-service Operational Synergy, reinforcing the nation's preparedness to safeguard its skies and sovereignty in the era of Hybrid Warfare.

Exercise Cold Start, held by the headquarters (HQ)- Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) showcased seamless synergy between the Ministry of Defence, Indian Armed Forces, DRDO and civil partners. As per the HQ-IDS, "The Exercise integrates cutting-edge Counter-UAS, Surveillance and Electronic Warfare systems, creating an impenetrable shield against evolving aerial threats."

"Through real-time coordination and technology-driven tactics, the Tri Services demonstrate unmatched capability to detect, track and neutralize drones, loitering munitions and RPAs in a high-intensity simulated combat environment -reaffirming India's resolve towards Jointness, Integration and Future-Ready Force."

Cold Start, HQ IDS adds, underscores India's growing emphasis on technological innovation, interoperability and tri-service Operational Synergy, reinforcing the nation's preparedness to safeguard its skies and sovereignty in the era of Hybrid Warfare.

As explained earlier by this newspaper, Indian army is taking jointness and integration seriously in an effort to be 'future ready'.

After Trump invite to PM, Kirti Vardhan to attend Gaza peace meet in Egypt

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

INDIA will be represented by Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh at the Sharm el-Sheikh Gaza peace summit on Monday, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a last-minute invitation from US President Donald Trump and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

The summit, to be jointly chaired by Trump and Sisi, follows the ceasefire brokered last Friday between Israel and Hamas. The gathering in Egypt's Red Sea resort city is expected to host leaders from over 20 countries, aiming "to end the war in the Gaza Strip, enhance efforts to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East, and usher in a new era of regional security and stability," the Egyptian presidency said.

Leaders including UN Secretary-General António Guterres, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Italy's Giorgia Meloni, Spain's Pedro Sánchez, and French President Emmanuel Macron have confirmed their attendance. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's presence, however, remains uncertain. Hamas has declined to participate.

The summit comes on the heels of a US-mediated hostage swap and truce agreement reached through indirect talks in Sharm el-Sheikh, hosted by Egypt and supported by Qatar and Turkey. Under the deal, Hamas will begin releasing its hostages Monday, while Israel is expected to free about 250 Palestinian prisoners and 1,700 detainees, in exchange for an easing of restrictions and expanded humanitarian access to Gaza.

The conflict, which began on October 7 2023 after a Hamas incursion into Israel killing around 1,200 people and capturing 251 hostages has since claimed over 67,000 lives, mostly Palestinians, and stirred global condemnation over the humanitarian crisis.

India's participation via Singh underscores its aim to maintain diplomatic relevance in West Asia. Modi's decision to send a representative allows New Delhi to signal support without overcommitting. India may look to influence post-war reconstruction strategies in Gaza.

Chidambaram remarks on Op Blue Star, Indira upset Cong top leaders

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

A day after senior Congress leader and former Union minister P Chidambaram sparked controversy with his comments on Operation Blue Star, sources within the party revealed that the top leadership is 'deeply upset' by his public remarks.

Speaking at the Khushwant Singh Literary Festival in Himachal's Kasauli, Chidambaram described the 1984 military operation as 'wrong,' stating that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi "paid the price with her life for the mistake."

Chidambaram, while in conversation with journalist and author Harinder Baweja, said, "There were other ways to retrieve and capture all militants but Operation Blue Star was a wrong way. It was a cumulative decision involving the Army, Intelligence, Police, and Civil defense and you cannot solely blame Mrs Gandhi."

Party insiders expressed dismay over his comments, stressing that senior leaders should be more cautious with public statements that may create political embarrassment. Sources said the Congress leadership believes such remarks are detrimental to the party, with the rank and file upset by the repeated controversies sparked by Chidambaram's statements. "This cannot become a habit," they said.

This isn't the first time Chidambaram's comments have triggered political ripples. Earlier, he said that he personally supported military retaliation against Pakistan following the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks and discussed it with then PM Manmohan Singh and senior officials, but said the UPA government opted for diplomatic restraint under pressure from international powers, including the US.

Operation Blue Star was a military operation undertaken between June 1 and June 10, 1984, to remove Damdami Taksal leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his militants from the premises of the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards on October 31, 1984.

ATC officers' shortage raises worries over aviation safety

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

THERE is a gaping shortage of personnel in the Air Traffic Control (ATC) centres across the country, posing a major risk to safety of flyers. With the recent opening of the Navi Mumbai International Airport and the Jewar International Airport in Noida set for launch shortly, the problem is only set to get compounded.

According to sources, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) is responsible for these nerve centres of flight operations at airports. An AAI source told this newspaper, "The sanctioned strength of ATC officers is 5,337 and the vacancies we have on date are 1,613 as of now. With new airports opening up and airlines introducing more flights with each passing day, we need at least 8,000 officers. This gaping shortage is a serious risk to the safety of flyers as well as the health of the officers".

The ATC works 24x7. It was only in 2019 that Flight Duty Time Limitation similar to those enforced for pilots was introduced for the personnel here. Prior to that, they were working long hours, the source said.

"Apart from the shortage of staff, there are only three training centres in the country for ATCs. We definitely need a hi-tech, world class training institute for new recruits," he added.

Another source said the ATC consists of two wings equally important – the Air Navigation Services and the Communication Navigations Services. "Their job is air traffic co-ordination. They operate in tandem and control flight operations, communications, navigations and surveillance facilities," he explained.

With the qualification being any Engineering Degree or a B.Tech degree or an M.Sc Physics Degree (with Electronics), only those with specific technical qualifications can make the grade.

"Despite the attraction of a government job, the work in shifts and the much lesser pay scale compared to pilots make it unattractive for job seekers, " he explained. "An ATCO handles 15 to 20 aircraft simultaneously by coordinating with them while a pilot is responsible for only one aircraft at any given time," the source added.

While the starting salary for a fresher is ₹60,000, it is ₹2.5 lakh in the case of a pilot who begins his career, he explained.

Another source said, "Recruitments are taking place annually but it is just not enough to meet the demand. Whenever new airports open up, experienced pilots are sent to manage the show," he added.

The issue was raised in Parliament in the recent session too. AAI did not want to give an official comment on it.

INSIDER TRACK

Taliban Gets Red Carpet, Not Flag

Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, received a red-carpet welcome in Delhi — literally. Staying at the luxury ITC Maurya, which has hosted Joe Biden and Barack Obama, Muttaqi's visit carried all the usual diplomatic trappings. Almost all. What wasn't present was the national flags, an important protocol marker. Since India does not officially recognise the Taliban administration, the flags were kept away. However, as a practical diplomatic gesture, India allowed the Taliban flag on the table during the presser by the Taliban foreign minister. Interestingly, insiders say the Taliban themselves are not sticklers for protocols—their cricket team still uses Afghanistan's previous national anthem. This pragmatism was reflected when Muttaqi addressed a second press conference in Delhi, this time extending invitations to both men and women—a subtle yet noteworthy shift from the prior all-male event.

Nirman Bhawan Shuffle Stuck

The plan to vacate Delhi's ageing Nirman Bhawan is crawling along. The Lutyens-era complex will soon make way for the Common Central Secretariat (CCS). Relocation orders went out weeks ago, sending offices to sites from Vidyut Bhawan to distant Pushpa Bhawan. However, many departments are dragging their feet. With the October 31 deadline nearing, CPWD officials are losing patience. A strongly worded memorandum now requires status updates by October 15. It comes laced with vintage sarkari phrasing: Delays "shall be treated as insubordination, warning that delays "shall be treated as insubordination" and may result in "necessary action as deemed fit". Essentially, while files have moved, staff have not.

RSS@100: Memorabilia Messaging

Call it symbolic patriotism or strategic messaging, the RSS is celebrating its centenary with special commemorative coins and stamps featuring Bharat Mata and uniformed cadres saluting. Released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this is the first time since Independence that such imagery has appeared on official currency memorabilia. Available on the Kolkata Mint portal and across Philately Bureaus nationwide, these coins honour "a century of service, unity and dedication," according to the Finance Ministry. The timing and rollout have not gone unnoticed. Kolkata, where the Sangh is visibly expanding and the BJP is vying to dislodge the ruling TMC, is handling online orders — a detail some find politically loaded. Opposition critics call it a "brilliantly devised" move to place the RSS in "every Hindu household" under the guise of heritage. With the Sangh Parivar expected to place mass orders, the centenary coins may well become part of daily devotional shelves — or dinner-table conversations.

Bhai-Bhai Showdown Season?

As Bihar heads into elections, the RJD seems less worried about the BJP than a homegrown wildcard — Tej Pratap Yadav. The elder son of Lalu Prasad, recently expelled from the party, has launched the Janshakti Janta Party. He is stirring the political waters with cryptic barbs and Krishna cosplay. Nicknamed Teju Bhaiya, he was ousted after a controversial photo with a girl surfaced online, which he claims was due to a hacked account. Tej Pratap plans to contest from Mahua, but insiders worry he might also be eyeing Raghopur, held by his brother Tejashwi Yadav. "Teju Babu kya karengey, God hi jaane... lekin bheed khinch rahe hain," said one leader, nervously watching the possible brother-versus-brother showdown.

REFORMS WITHOUT BOMBAST: MODI GOVT STREAMLINES PROCESSES

GOPAL KRISHNA AGARWAL
National Spokesperson of BJP

WHEN, it comes to economic reforms, in our obsession to look for big-bang, news-worthy headlines we tend to miss out on seemingly smaller developments. Media and the chatterati look for hotly contested issues, where passions run high and the political economy of the country makes progress very challenging. An unfortunate consequence of this bias is a lack of fair assessment of the many ways in which the Government is upending the entrenched system of governance. Political corruption at the highest levels was one of the most important issues in the run-up to the 2014 general elections. With the Modi Government taking over the reins in 2014, that variant of corruption was eliminated. Laws and policies are no longer made in return for kickbacks. However, the harassment and corruption at lower-level causing difficulties to businesses and citizens is a different animal altogether. Recognising the need for a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to tackle this menace, Modi Government has initiated several measures.

Modi Government in the last 10 years has initiated several steps to streamline processes, repeal redundant laws and regulations and eliminate discretion. This has led to marked changes in the way citizens interact with the bureaucracy. The threat of fastening criminal charges on violations of laws, rules and regulations was a threat that facilitated easy extraction of money from businesses. Minor violations have now been decriminalised by the government and violators can only be made to pay fines. The other area of reform is the repeal of obsolete and redundant laws and regulations. Modi government in last 11 years has repealed over 1500 laws and eliminated over 40,000 unnecessary compliances.

Government has tried to use technology and reduce subjective discretion of administration, like in the case of GST reforms making process of registration, filling of returns, assessment and refunds completely online and simplifying the whole process. Direct Benefit Transfers to the beneficiary accounts has removed leakages and corruption from the government welfare schemes. Single window online permission for businesses through Udyog Mitra initiatives of active State governments is to bring efficiency and reduce bureaucratic interference. Even in case of income tax, where ordinary citizens might have to interact with the bureaucracy, the process has been made completely virtual with E-assessment. While issuing notice under the Income Tax Act, the officer does not know who the notice/assessee is, and the latter does not need to meet any officer to offer explanation, the process is anonymous. There is significant development in the matters of income tax refunds and assessment, which has now been made time bound.

Another such development took place in the recent past. In the month of June 2025 Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) repealed licensing regulations under section 28(1) of the Delhi Police Act, 1978, for seven specific trades. These include hotels, motels, guest houses, restaurants and eateries, discotheques, swimming pools, video game parlours, amusement parks and auditoriums. Following this, Delhi Police on 28th June issued a gazette notification implementing the directions of the LG with immediate effect.

Indian bureaucracy has traditionally enjoyed much power and discretion over daily lives of citizens- be it in their personal space or in running government. This has manifested in arcane and overbearing rules and regulations and the impulse to control outcomes. This power also leads to rent seeking behaviour on part of the individuals in the bureaucratic set-up. It is also typical of any individual or institution that once power, privilege or discretion is enjoyed by it, it will fight tooth and nail to preserve and protect its turf. Delhi Police, despite all its professionalism, could not be assumed to have acted differently. Therefore, it goes to the credit of its political boss, the Home Minister for pushing through this reform.

> A series of such crucial reforms, minus the sound and fury associated with the big measures, is imparting resilience to our economy by making private enterprise more fruitful Modi Government has always believed that reform is a process and not an event and its working shows deep commitment to this belief

All these efforts are in the right direction but still business community has certain grievances calling for harassment. At policy level lot of things have been achieved by the government, though there is space at the implementation level. People with background in business and finance with foot on the ground, in the implementation structure is sure to bring more efficiency in governance. An economy with regulatory cholesterol, finds it difficult to compete with other dynamic economies in the international arena, regulatory compliances add to the cost of doing business. It is one of the major challenge for the manufacturing sector to be internationally competitive. Therefore, Modi Government had made deregulation a major focus. It has set up a Deregulation Commission for the non-financial sector that will take a comprehensive view of all the regulations and come up with recommendations. As the name itself suggests, the focus will be on doing away with otiose regulations. A similar initiative for the financial sectors is also in the pipeline. Next-Gen GST reform and Jan Vishwas bill are sure to bring ease of doing business to the business community.

A series of such crucial reforms, minus the sound and fury associated with the big measures, is imparting resilience to our economy by making private enterprise more fruitful. The cumulative impact of these steps is much more significant than only big steps that any government might take. Modi Government has always believed that reform is a process and not an event and its working shows deep commitment to this belief. The most recent quarterly GDP growth of 7.8 per cent is a vindication of government's philosophy on reforms.

CASH HAUL

The ED has seized ₹45 lakh in unexplained cash, incriminating documents and digital devices during raids in connection with alleged irregularities in recruitment to South Dum Dum Municipality in West Bengal.

2 KILLED AFTER MOTORCYCLE RAMS INTO TREE IN UP

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	33	21	Mumbai	31	26
Bhopal	29	18	Panaji	33	25
Jaipur	30	20	Patna	31	21
Amritsar	30	18	Lucknow	31	20
Chennai	31	26	Port Blair	30	26
Kolkata	32	25	Imphal	28	19
Srinagar	21	08	Chandigarh	29	18

• Jitan Manjhi's HAM & Upendra Kushwaha's RLM will contest six seats each • INDIA bloc leaders say all issues will be resolved amicably

BJP, JD(U) get 101 seats each in NDA's Bihar deal, 29 for Chirag

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

THE ruling NDA on Sunday announced its seat share deal with BJP and JD(U) bagging 101 seats each, while union minister Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) will contest 29 seats in the elections to the 243-member Assembly. Union minister Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and former union minister Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) will contest six seats each.

The deal follows extensive deliberations in Delhi and Patna involving senior NDA leaders, including BJP election in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan, Vinod Tawde, and Nityanand Rai, as well as interactions with LJP, RLM, and HAM leadership. LJP chief Chirag Paswan, who had initially demanded 40 seats, agreed to the reduced share of 29 seats.

It will be first time that BJP and JD(U) will contest equal number of seats since 2005. In the October-November 2005 Bihar Assembly polls, JD(U) contested 139 seats and BJP 102 seats. In the 2010 Assembly election, JD(U) contested 141, and BJP 102 seats.

In 2015, JD(U) contested Assembly polls with RJD and its allies. In the 2020 Assembly polls, JD(U) contested 115 seats, while BJP 110. With BJP and JD(U) agreeing to contest polls on equal numbers this time, both parties want to give a clear message to the electorate that there is no dispute in the alliance in Bihar. In the 2020 election, Chirag's LJP (RV) contested independently.

In the present seat share deal, Chirag emerged as a "big gainer" as he finally got 29 seats even when BJP had initially offered him 26 seats. To satisfy Chirag's demands, the BJP has even reportedly conceded its some sitting seats to him.

LJP (RV)'s strike rate was 100% in the last Lok Sabha election as it won all five seats it contested. On the other hand, HAM, which had contested seven seats in the last Assembly election, had to contend with six seats even when it was demanding 15 seats.

Manjhi asserted that his party had no objection to being allotted six seats. He said that the NDA high command took a decision in this regard. "In Parliament, we were given only one seat, were we upset? Similarly, if we got only six seats, it is the decision of the high command. We accept it...," he remarked.

Before the announcement of the seat share deal, Manjhi said, "I am heading to Patna now... I've said before and I'm saying again today... I, Jitan Ram Manjhi, will stand with the Honorable PM Narendra Modi ji until my last breath."

JD (U) national working president Sanjay Jha commented on 'X', "We NDA colleagues have completed the distribution of seats in a cordial atmosphere. JDU – 101, BJP – 101, LJP(R)- 29, RLM – 06, HAM – 06. Leaders and worker comrades of all NDA parties welcome this with joy and are resolved and united to make CM Nitish Kumar the Chief Minister again with a massive majority. Bihar is ready, the NDA government again."

Chirag as well as RLM leader Kushwaha also declared the seat share deal on the social media, adding that the deal was struck in a cordial atmosphere.

FILE PHOTO

AIMIM names 32 in first list, hints at third front

The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) has released its list of 32 candidates for the elections and hinted at formation of a third front. The party's Bihar chief, Akhtarul Iman, said that the party would field candidates from multiple seats, including Kishanganj, Purnea, Katihar, Araria, Gaya, Motihari, Nawada, Jamui, Bhagalpur, Siwan, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Vaishali and Gopalganj.

Formula indicates BJP keeps its post-poll option for top job open: Analysts

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

AFTER several rounds of meetings with allies, the BJP finally managed to reach a consensus on seat-sharing for the high-stakes Bihar Assembly elections on Sunday. The BJP and JD(U)—the two key senior partners of the NDA—agreed to contest an equal number of seats, 101 each. Of the remaining 41 seats, 29 have been allocated to LJP (RV), and six each to HAM and RLM.

What struck many after closely analysing the formula was that the BJP had made a very smart political move by agreeing to contest the same number of seats as the JD(U) with 101 each.

Soon after the arrangement was announced by BJP Bihar in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan on his X handle, political analysts termed it a "gateway" to the next power move for the BJP, should the JD(U) once again win fewer seats but still insist on retaining the Chief Minister's post, as was the case in the 2020 Assembly elections. In 2020, the JD(U) contested 115 seats but managed to win only 43 – emerging as a junior partner. Ironically, despite its reduced status in terms of seat count, the CM post remained with the JDU, under Nitish Kumar, largely due to the BJP lacking a leader of matching stature to take on the role.

At that time, Nitish Kumar had offered the opportunity for the BJP to announce a Chief Ministerial candidate, but the BJP, playing a shrewd political card, waited for a better opportunity. That moment seems to have arrived this year in Assembly elections with both the JDU and BJP contesting an equal number of seats.

Senior political observers said, "BJP has opened a way to come into power through this formula. If JD(U) bags less number of seats than BJP, it may put a toss to change the CM."

However, the BJP leaders denied it and saying it will fight under Nitish Kumar leadership. The LJP (RV) has emerged as an unavoidable ally for the NDA, ultimately securing 29 seats — the third highest among the alliance partners — despite initially demanding 45. For the BJP, which is focused on ensuring the stability and longevity of the Modi government at the Centre, there was little choice but to concede to the LJP's demands, albeit in a revised form: granting it 29 seats instead of 45.

CHANDIGARH DIARY

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Our correspondent in Chandigarh
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Sidhu meets Priyanka, triggers comeback buzz

Former Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu recently met Priyanka Gandhi Vadra triggering speculation of his return to active politics. He had been keeping a low profile and distancing himself from party activities for quite some time now. The meeting comes at a time when Sidhu's wife, Dr Navjot Kaur Sidhu has been active in their home turf Amritsar East assembly segment, a seat that has been represented by both in the past. "Met my mentor, lighthouse and guiding angel, just grateful to her and Bhai for standing by in rough and tough times ...." he expressed his gratitude to Priyanka and Rahul.

Eight AAP councillors in Sangrur MC resign

Eight AAP councillors in Sangrur municipal council recently resigned from the party, while two independent councillors also withdrew their support from the AAP-controlled council. They cited "dissatisfaction" with the its chief and the "indifferent attitude" of senior party leaders. Thus, AAP may lose control over the civic body if the dissenters do not return to the party or it fails to muster numbers to retain majority. As Sangrur is AAP's power centre, with CM Bhagwant Mann and three senior ministers Harpal Singh Cheema, Barinder Kumar Goyal and Aman Arora who is also Punjab AAP president are hailing from the district.

LoP flays 'temporary' arrangements on posts

Former CM and LoP Jai Ram Thakur took a dig at the Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu-led Congress government in Himachal Pradesh, saying, "temporary arrangements" have been made for the key posts in the state. The BJP leader said that the government, which is about to complete three years in the state, had made tall claims of being "decision making government". He further said that the state was being run by "acting" officials. "From the Chief Secretary and DGP to head of forest department and Kanga Superintendent of police, everyone is holding additional charge. This is a govt of caretaker, not a functioning administration," he claimed.

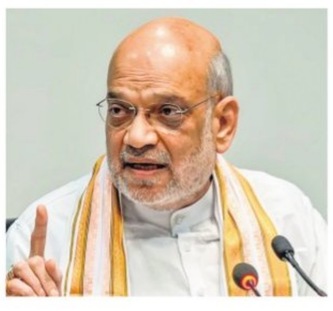
BJP poll panel reviews candidates' winnability, most MLAs to get ticket

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE BJP on Sunday held its Central Election Committee (CEC) meeting at the party headquarters in New Delhi to review the list of candidates for the Bihar Assembly elections, which will be held in a phased manner on November 6 and 11.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other CEC members were present in the meet chaired by the party's national president, JP Nadda. Although the party did not immediately issue any public statement divulging the minutes of the meeting, party sources reveal that the discussions mostly centred around the winnability of each candidate, taking into consideration multiple political factors.

An insider privy to the deliberations shared, "The party could drop around 1 to 2% of the sitting MLAs in order to accommodate newcomers." However, the overall likelihood of the BJP ditching the incumbents remains low. Only those legislators facing high anti-incumbency stand to lose out on a ticket.



Another concern that reportedly surfaced during the meet was dynastic politics. The party is making sure "not to give tickets to any close relatives of sitting MLAs or MPs". Sources say this would reflect in the final list of candidates. Further, the party is considering fielding more women and a member of the Muslim community, too.

Moreover, PM Modi will virtually interact with some party workers in Bihar and seek their suggestions for the party's manifesto ahead of the polls. The interaction is expected to boost the morale of the party workers so that they go all out to ensure the party's victory.

Notably, the BJP has bagged 101 seats in the NDA seat-sharing deal announced Sunday.

Two RJD MLAs resign, may join Nitish's party

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

THE Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) suffered a significant blow on Sunday as two of its MLAs resigned ahead of the Bihar polls amid speculation that they could join CM Nitish Kumar's JD(U). Vibha Devi, the RJD MLA from Nawada and Prakash Veer, the MLA from Rajauli, submitted their resignations to Assembly Speaker Nand Kishore Yadav, severing ties with the party.

The resignations came after RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav's departure to Delhi and have further deepened the internal strife within the party. The RJD is grappling with contentious seat-sharing arrangements and growing discontent among party workers and leaders.

Devi's husband Raj Ballabh Yadav was a former MLA and recently walked out of jail, following an acquittal by the Patna High Court in a POCSO case for which he spent several years behind bars. Devi had won the seat in the 2020 elections on an RJD ticket, and her resignation is seen as a major loss for the party in the Nawada region, where her family holds significant influence.

Lalu, Tejashwi to meet Rahul today for seat-sharing pact

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

ALL eyes are set on the crucial meeting of RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav with senior Congress leaders—Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge—in New Delhi on Monday to seal the seat-sharing arrangements among Opposition INDIA bloc partners for the high-stakes Bihar Assembly elections.

While the elections are scheduled to be held in two phases—November 6 and 11—the counting of votes will take place on November 14. The nomination for the first phase is underway.

Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) chief Mukesh Sahani admitted that some technical issues have delayed the announcement of the seat allocation. "I am leaving for New Delhi where all the issues related to seat-sharing will be resolved," he said before leaving for Delhi from Patna on Sunday. Sahani said that Lalu and Tejashwi were already in Delhi. "I have been asked to come to Delhi for proposed meeting slated for Monday. Once the issues are resolved, the announcement on seat allocation will be made," he said, adding that INDIA bloc would contest election unitedly.

Before leaving for Delhi, RJD supremo Lalu Prasad said, "Seat-sharing talks are underway. Everything will be settled and declaration on seat-sharing pact will be made soon," he said. Earlier, Tejashwi said that there was no political purpose of his Delhi visit. He said they have been summoned to depose before a court in connection with a case. Lalu, his wife Rabri Devi and Tejashwi have to appear before the court in the railways land for job scam case on Monday. Tejashwi parried questions on seat-sharing deal. "We have been summoned by the court in Delhi. You (media) have got 'masala' and run it the whole day," he said.

Meanwhile, two RJD MLAs—Vibha Devi and Prakash Veer—resigned from their posts and sent their resignation letters to Speaker Nand Kishore Yadav. Vibha Devi, wife of former MLA Raj Ballabh Prasad, is MLA from Nawada while Prakash Veer represents Rajauli seat.

Though they have not yet declared it, but sources said that they may be inducted in JD(U) and fielded from their respective constituencies.

FILE PHOTO

'Technical issues' behind delay, says VIP president

Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) chief Mukesh Sahani admitted that some technical issues have delayed the announcement of the seat allocation. "I am leaving for New Delhi where all the issues related to seat-sharing will be resolved," he said before leaving for Delhi from Patna on Sunday.

3 held for 'gang rape'; Didi flags risk of nights out

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

THREE persons were arrested on Sunday for their alleged involvement in the 'gang rape' of a student of a private medical college in West Bengal's Paschim Bardhaman district. The identities of the three arrested accused were yet to be disclosed by the police.

"We have arrested three persons in connection with the case. They are being questioned. This is a very sensitive case and we will give out further details later," a police officer confirmed. Sources in the police said that the mobile phones of the three accused were also seized.

The medical college student hailing from Odisha's Jaleswar was allegedly raped by some men in Durgapur, police said on Saturday. The incident took place outside the campus of the private medical college in Durgapur on Friday night when the second-year student went out with one of her friends. The

girl's parents, who rushed to Durgapur from Odisha, lodged an FIR with the New Township police station.

The health condition of the survivor was stated to be "improving" as she is undergoing treatment at the private college and hospital where she was studying, the officer said, adding she has given her statement to the law enforcers.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday termed the gang rape "shocking" and said that no accused would be spared.

"This is a shocking incident... We have zero tolerance for such crimes. Three accused have been arrested and police are conducting search for others. Nobody will be spared," she said in her first reaction to the incident. Banerjee said the medical institution concerned also bears responsibility for the incident. "Private colleges must ensure security within and around their campuses," Banerjee expressed.

The TMC supremo also said female boarders, especially those from outside the state, should follow hostel rules and not venture out late at night.

'Students staying in hostels, especially those who have come to West Bengal to study from outside, are expected to follow the rules of the hostels. They should avoid venturing out late at night, although they have the fundamental right to go wherever they want,' she said.

The BJP on Sunday lashed out at West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for asking female boarders not to venture out at night following the alleged gangrape of a medical student, and demanded her resignation, calling her a "blot on womanhood".

The party accused the Trinamool Congress supremo of "victim shaming and blaming" and said a chief minister who cannot stand with women in their darkest hour has no moral right to govern the state.

BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia wrote on X, " Shameless @MamataOfficial a blot on womanhood, even more for being a CM." "After RG Kar and Sandeshkhali, now this horrific case of rape and instead of justice, she blames the victim," he charged.

Slamming the CM's remarks, Bhatia said that a chief minister who tells girls not to go out at night, rather than ensuring their safety, has no moral right to stay in office. "She must resign and be held accountable under law," Bhatia added.

BJP names 3 candidates for RS polls in J&K; Cong rejects NC's seat offer

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE BJP on Sunday announced its candidates for three of the four vacant Rajya Sabha seats from Jammu and Kashmir. It nominated Sat Pal Sharma as its chief from the 'safe seat' where party has enough numbers. In contrast, the Congress has decided not to contest the 'unsafe' seat offered by its ally, National Conference (NC).

The BJP candidates include the J&K party president Sat Pal Sharma, Ali Mohammad Mir, and Rakesh Mahajan. While Mir and Mahajan would contest from the seat No 1 and 2, where the chances of BJP victory are slim, Sharma would be contesting from the seat in which party has numerical advantage over the ruling NC-led alliance.

Sharma will contest from the seat under the third notification which includes a combined election for the third and fourth seats. In the 90-member J&K Assembly, present strength is 88. BJP has 28 members, while the ruling NC-alliance has support of 53 members, including six members of Congress.

In a related development, Congress decided against contesting from the unsafe seat offered by its ally NC. "Our central leadership during talks with NC had sought one safe seat—either seat No 1 or seat No 2. But, itoffered us seat No 4. Since seat No 4 is not as safe as seats No 1 and 2, it was unanimously decided by party that we will not field our candidate for seat No 4 (unsafe) seat and we will leave it to alliance partners to decide the next step," J&K Congress chief Tariq Karra told reporters after core group meeting of the party in Srinagar.

The ruling NC has announced Choudhary Ramzan, Shammi Oberoi and Sajad Ahmad Kichloo as its candidates for three RS seats and left one 'unsafe' seat for the Congress.

J&K party chief to contest from seat with advantage

The BJP candidates include the J&K party president Sat Pal Sharma, Ali Mohammad Mir, and Rakesh Mahajan. While Mir and Mahajan would contest from the seat No 1 and 2, where the chances of BJP victory are slim, Sharma would be contesting from the seat in which party has numerical advantage over the ruling NC-led alliance. Sharma will contest from the seat under the third notification which includes a combined election for the third and fourth seats.

16 killed
in Tennessee blast that levelled explosives plant, no survivors reported

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	19	SNY	Los Angeles	32	19	SNY
Colombo	29	25	TDS	Melbourne	17	5	LC
Dhaka	33	25	TDS	Moscow	28	13	SNY
Dubai	44	28	SNY	New York	26	15	SNY
Houston	30	23	TDS	Singapore	32	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	23	13	SNY
London	20	13	SNY	Washington	26	14	SNY

Israel awaits release of the remaining hostages as truce enters crucial phase

Twenty hostages set to be freed today as aid convoys move into Gaza, hope for lasting calm

CAIRO

ISRAEL said on Sunday that it expected all of the living hostages held in the Gaza Strip to be released Monday in its breakthrough ceasefire deal with Hamas, as Palestinians awaited the release of hundreds of prisoners held in Israel and a surge of aid into the famine-stricken territory.

"In a few hours, we will all be reunited," Israel's military chief of staff, Lt Gen Eyal Zamir, said in a statement. US President Donald Trump planned to leave later in the day to visit Israel and Egypt to celebrate the ceasefire announced last week that offered hope for an end to the two-year war.

"We are expecting all 20 of our living hostages to be released together at one time to the Red Cross and transported among six to eight vehicles," Israeli government spokesperson Shosh Bedrosian said, noting that Israel did not expect militants to stage the exchanges in the same public manner as previous rounds.

Bedrosian said the hostages will be driven to a military base to reunite with their families or, if needed, immediately to a hospital. After the hostages are freed, Israel was ready to release about 2,000 Palestinian detainees and receive the 28 hostages believed to be dead. The military planned a ceremony on their behalf in Gaza, Bedrosian said. An international task force will start working to locate deceased hostages who are not returned within 72 hours, said Gal Hirsch, Israel's coordinator for the Hostages and the Missing. Officials have said the search for the bodies of hostages, some of which may be under rubble, could take time.

Timing has not been announced for the release of Palestinian prisoners held in Israel who are to be freed. They include 250 people serving life sentences in addition to 1,700 seized from Gaza during the war and held without charge. Dr Mounir al-Boursh, head of Gaza's Health Ministry, said he hoped the bodies of medical personnel who died in Israeli detention centers will be among those handed over. On Gaza's borders, preparations were underway to ramp up aid entering the war-battered territory. The Israeli military body in charge of humanitarian aid in Gaza said the amount of aid entering was expected to increase Sunday to around 600 trucks per day, as stipulated in the agreement. *AP*

Displaced Palestinians ride on a van loaded with their belongings amid rubble in Gaza City (Inset) Egyptian Red Crecent members monitor trucks carrying humanitarian aid as they enter the Rafah | AP

WAR WATCH

ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 736

TOLL SO FAR

67,160

Russia hits Ukraine's power grid, warns US on Tomahawk supply

KYIV

RUSSIA attacked Ukraine's power grid overnight into Sunday, part of an ongoing campaign to cripple Ukrainian energy infrastructure before winter, and expressed "extreme concern" over the U.S. potentially providing Tomahawk cruise missiles to Ukraine.

Kyiv regional Gov Mykola Kalashnyk said two employees of Ukraine's largest private energy company DTEK were wounded in Russian strikes on a substation. Ukraine's Energy Ministry said that infrastructure was also targeted in the regions of Donetsk, Odesa and Chernihiv.

"Russia continues its aerial terror against our cities and communities, intensifying strikes on our energy infrastructure," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote on X, noting that Russia had launched "more than 3,100 drones, 92 missiles, and around 1,360 glide bombs" over the past week. Zelenskyy called for tighter secondary sanctions on buyers of Russian oil. "Sanctions, tariffs, and joint actions against the buyers of Russian oil, those who finance this war, must all remain on the table," he wrote on X. He also wrote Sunday he had a "very productive" phone call with US President Donald Trump, in which they discussed strengthening Ukraine's "air defense, resilience, and long-range capabilities," along with "details related to the energy sector." Their discussion followed an earlier conversation on Saturday, Zelenskyy said, during which the leaders agreed on Sunday's topics. The phone calls came after Zelenskyy said Friday that he was in discussions with US officials about the possible provision of various long-range precision strike weapons, including Tomahawks and more ATACMS tactical ballistic missiles. A senior Ukrainian delegation is set to visit the US this week.

Meanwhile, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said in remarks published Sunday that "the topic of Tomahawks is of extreme concern." *AP*

Estonia closes road passing through Russian territory

TALLIN: Estonia has temporarily closed a road that passes through Russian territory after border guards spotted a group of Russian soldiers, the country's public broadcaster said Sunday. The Police and Border Guard Board said the closure was made Friday after observing a "larger-than-usual unit" moving inside Russia near the border route used by Estonian citizens

Trump-related indictment of AG James sparks concern

WASHINGTON

THE coalition of New York NAACP chapters had just begun its annual state convention when Letitia James, a longtime member and the state's attorney general, canceled her appearance. James had just been indicted by the Justice Department for alleged mortgage fraud, a charge which she called "baseless" and "a grave violation of our constitutional order."

For the New York convention's organizers, the moment was alarming and underscored the gathering's importance, which featured multiple sessions on building political power at the state level in response to what NAACP leaders called federal attacks on social welfare, civil rights and the rule of law.

"It was through our collective action that a democracy was built," said NAACP New York State Conference President L. Joy Williams. "What we have to do is not only defend against what is happening now, but we have to push further past where we were before, to build a system to build a better American democracy that we all deserve." James' indictment, after prosecuting the Trump Organisation, fueled claims the justice system was politicised for Trump. *AP*

China stands its ground on Don's 100% tariffs; wants resolution

BEIJING

CHINA signaled on Sunday that it would not back down in the face of a 100% tariff threat from President Donald Trump and urged the United States to resolve differences through negotiations instead of threats. Trump responded by taking a less confrontational approach without retreating from his demands, while his vice president seemed to warn Beijing not to react aggressively.

"China's stance is consistent," the Commerce Ministry said in a statement posted online. "We do not want a tariff war but we are not afraid of one." It was China's first official comment on Trump's threat to jack up the tax on imports from China by November 1 in response to new Chinese restrictions on the export of rare earths, which are vital to a wide range of consumer and military products.Hours later, Trump used his Truth Social platform to send a message to Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

"Don't worry about China, it will all be fine!" the Republican president wrote. "Highly respected President Xi just had a bad moment. He doesn't want Depression for his country, and neither do I. The USA wants to help China, not hurt it!!!" Trump may have had an eye toward to US financial markets on the eve of the new business week.

Trump may have had an eye toward to US financial markets on the eve of the new business week. The stock market will be open on Monday, though bond markets will close for the Columbus Day holiday. On Friday, the broad S&P 500 stock market index plunged 2.7%, its worst day in about six months after Trump's tariff threat.

The spat threatens a Trump-Xi meeting and could end the April trade war truce. *AP*

ASIA MATTERS

SINGAPORE

34,000 TONNES OF E-WASTE COLLECTED

More 34,000 tonnes of electronic waste have been collected since 2021, with nearly 10,000 tonnes gathered so far in 2025, a 60% rise compared to last year, *The Straits Times* reported. To improve convenience, all community centres will have e-waste bins by June 2026, increasing collection points to 1,057 from around 1,000 currently, the report said. The Alba Step Up, which operates the scheme, has upgraded its app to help residents locate the nearest bins and offers incentives to encourage recycling. Around 60,000 tonnes of e-waste is generated each year.

1 KILLED, 5 INJURED IN BUS ACCIDENT

One person was killed and several others, including five Singaporeans, were injured after an express bus crashed into a signpost in Malaysia's Selangor state on Saturday. The accident occurred on North-South Expressway while the bus was travelling from Boon Lay to Ipoh, Perak, with 29 passengers on board, *The Malaysia Star* reported.

THAILAND

THAI MILITARY DEFENDS OPS ALONG BORDER

Thailand's military defended its border operations on Sunday after Cambodia lodged a complaint with the interim observer team (IOT) over the use of so-called "ghostly sounds". As per a *Bangkok Post* report, the Thai military insisted that all activities occurred strictly within Thai territory. Maj Gen Benjapol Dechatiwong Na Ayutthaya, commander of the Burapa Task Force, said "Everything we did was on Thai soil. My men were on duty through the night and needed to stay alert. I simply helped them stay awake. It's our land."

Taliban claims 58 Pakistani soldiers killed amid heavy clashes at border

KABUL

AFGHANISTAN and Pakistan said on Sunday they killed dozens of each other's troops during a night of heavy border clashes between the two countries. Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban government spokesman, said on Sunday that 58 Pakistani soldiers were killed and around 30 wounded in the clashes, while nine Taliban forces were killed.

The Pakistani military, meanwhile, said 23 of its soldiers and more than 200 Taliban and affiliated troops were killed.

Taliban forces launched attacks on Pakistani troops along their shared border late on Saturday, in what it called "retaliation for air strikes carried out by the Pakistani army on Kabul" on Thursday.

Islamabad has not directly claimed responsibility for the strikes, but has repeatedly stated the right to defend itself against surging militancy that it says is planned from Afghan soil.The two sides have repeatedly clashed in border regions since the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan in 2021, but airspace violations deep into Afghan territory would mark a significant escalation.

Afghan refugees on a truck at the border crossing point on Sunday | AP

AFP was unable to independently verify the casualty figures. Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said on Sunday the "situation is under control". "Our operation last night achieved its objectives. And then our friends like Qatar and Saudi Arabia appealed that war must stop now, and the war is ceased right now," he said during a visit to India.

An Afghan military unit described Thursday's blasts in the capital as "air strikes", but Mujahid instead said the incident was an "airspace violation", adding that no damage had been found.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Sunday he "strongly condemns provocations" by Afghanistan. *AFP*

Mexico: Floods, landslides kill 41 amid heavy rains

TENANGO DE DORIA

FLOODS caused by torrential rains have killed at least 41 people in Mexico in recent days and left behind a trail of destruction, the government said on Saturday.

Mexico's civil defense authorities reported intense rainfall in 31 of 32 states, causing rivers to overflow, flooding entire villages, triggering landslides and collapsing roads and bridges.

The central state of Hidalgo has been among the worst-affected areas, with authorities there reporting at least 22 dead, 1,000 homes damaged and 90 communities inaccessible to rescuers, the federal security secretariat said.

It said that neighboring Puebla state had at least nine dead.

A damaged bus station after heavy rainfall in Poza Rica, Mexico on Saturday | AP

Around 80,000 people have been affected by the extreme weather in Puebla alone, the state government said.

Floods have killed five people in the eastern state of Veracruz and one in Queretaro state, in central Mexico, officials said.

"We are deploying members and teams from the Mexican government to open roads and assist communities," wrote President Claudia Sheinbaum on X.

Sheinbaum added that thousands of troops as well as boats, planes and helicopters have been deployed to assist the rescue efforts.

The military will help distribute aid in affected areas, with more than 10,000 troops deployed, along with rescue equipment and vehicles.

Shelters were open for those displaced from their homes.

The main disaster area has been Sierra Madre Oriental, a mountain range that runs parallel to the Gulf of Mexico coast.

It is dotted by small communities, many of which were blocked off on Friday. *AFP*

A Chinese ship (right) fires water cannon at a Philippines vessel | AP

Chinese coast guard ship rams Philippine vessel

MANILA

A Chinese coast guard ship used a powerful water cannon on Sunday then rammed and slightly damaged an anchored Philippine government vessel off an island inhabited by Filipinos in the disputed South China Sea, said the Philippine coast guard.

There were no injuries among Filipino crewmen of the BRP Datu Pagbuaya, part of the fisheries fleet that support Filipino fishermen. The Chinese coast guard targeted Pagbuaya off the Philippines-occupied Thitu island in the latest flare-up of the long-simmering territorial disputes involving Manila, Beijing and four other governments.

China did not immediately issue any reaction but has repeatedly restated its sovereignty and control over virtually the entire South China Sea, a major trade route, despite a 2016 arbitration ruling that invalidated its historic claims. That ruling has been rejected by China but supported by the United States and its Western and Asian allies.

Pagbuaya and two other Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources vessels were anchored in the territorial waters off Thitu, called Pag-asa by the Philippines, when Chinese coast guard and suspected militia ships suddenly approached and staged "dangerous and provocative maneuvers", the Philippine coast guard said.

He added such aggression would not prompt Manila to "surrender a square inch of our territory". A Chinese coast guard ship with bow number 21559 "fired its water cannon directly at the BRP Datu Pagbuaya, hitting the vessel," then rammed the stern of the Philippine fisheries vessel three minutes later, causing "minor structural damage". *AP*

EXPRESS READ

Shutdown: Don orders Pentagon to pay troops

WASHINGTON : President Trump directed the Pentagon to use "all available funds" to ensure US troops are paid on October 15 despite the government shutdown. The move excludes furloughed federal workers. Pentagon plans to tap $8 billion in unobligated research funds, easing pressure on Congress while the shutdown continues into its third week.

Shooting at S Carolina bar leaves 4 dead, 20 hurt

BEAUFORT: A mass shooting at Willie's Bar and Grill on St. Helena Island, South Carolina, killed four and injured at least 20, including four critically. Victims fled to nearby businesses for safety. Authorities continue investigating the horrific incident, while local officials and US lawmakers express shock, sorrow, and condolences to victims' families.

EU launches digital border system for visitors

LONDON

TRAVELLERS to Europe, including Indians, will be subject to new entry registrations from Sunday under a phased implementation of the European Union's new digital border system.

The EU's Entry Exit System (EES) requires non-EU citizens to register at the border when entering any of the EU countries by scanning their passport and having their fingerprints and photograph taken.

EES will be a requirement when entering Schengen area countries including Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, with Ireland and Cyprus exempt. For travellers using the Port of Dover, Eurotunnel at Folkestone or Eurostar at St Pancras International in London, the process will take place at the border before they leave the UK.

"We must do everything we can to prevent terrorists and irregular migrants from entering the Schengen Area illegally," said Rasmus Stoklund, EU's Minister for Immigration and Integration. *PTI*

₹7.75 L TONNE of sugar India has exported in the marketing season that ended September, trade body AISTA said on Sunday

Should you invest in realty near new airports?

Property prices around airports have risen sharply in 3-5 years as against average rise in key metro markets

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

THE announcement of two mega airports near India's national and financial capitals has triggered a gold rush among property developers and investors.

With the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) inaugurated on October 8 and the Noida International Airport (NIA) in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh, set to begin operations soon, real estate stakeholders are highly optimistic about the future prospects of these areas and with good reason.

Property prices in both regions have soared, as builders and landowners scramble to acquire as much land as possible. Investors are joining the frenzy, attracted by potential for superior returns since properties near airports typically appreciate faster due to improved connectivity and accelerated infrastructure development supporting the airport ecosystem. Industry estimates indicate over 1.2 lakh apartments have been built around the two airports' localities between 2022 and now.

"The two airports have given high returns to its real estate investors since their commencement till date and continue to show high potential in future," said Anuj Puri, Chairman – ANAROCK Group. Puri said property prices near airports often rise faster than other areas due to improved connectivity, infrastructure upgrades, job growth and increased economic activity following airport development.

Industry experts say property prices, albeit on a low base, around airports have risen sharply in last 3-5 years when compared to average rise

in realty prices in key metro markets. As per Puri, the difference between the two is that Navi Mumbai airport already has better-established infrastructure in and around it with demand already visible. "Hence, an investor with short to medium term investment horizon and with less risk can opt to buy in and around it. While the area around Jewar airport is still developing and we have seen more speculative increase in property values in the past few years. Hence, investors with a long-term horizon and relatively high risk appetite can opt to invest here," added Puri.

As per Anarock Research, prominent areas impacted by the Navi Mumbai airport (like Panvel, Ulwe, Taloja, Kharghar) have seen land values going up anywhere between 50% and 60% in last 3 years. In contrast, land values in areas around Jewar International airport have risen anywhere between 60% to 70% in the same period.

Deepak Khandelwal, Principal Partner & chief sales officer at Square Yards said localities like New Panvel, Old Panvel, Kharghar, Ulwe, and Taloja are witnessing a surge in development, with a growing supply of premium residential projects, gated communities, and large integrated townships. He added that the market response has been strong, with apartment prices in Panvel region rising by 74% between FY 2021 and FY 2025, as against 45% growth across rest of Navi Mumbai.

Around NIA, Yamuna Expressway has transformed from a peripheral stretch into National Captial Region's (NCR's) most dynamic property corridor. As per data from realty consultant InvestoXpert, in Yamuna Expressway region, apartment prices rose 158% between 2020 and 2025—from ₹3,950 to ₹10,200 per sq ft, while plot values skyrocketed 536%, from ₹1,650 to ₹10,500 per sq.ft during the same period.

IN CONVERSATION

ASHUTOSH PANDITA
Head of cement business, TKIL Industries

'Next 5-10 yrs crucial; cement sector to see consolidation, growth'

WHILE it may not be a household name, TKIL Industries (formerly Thyssenkrupp Industries India) has been the force behind the construction of some of India's largest cement plants for over four decades. In an exclusive interaction with **Dipak Mondal**, TKIL Industries' head of Cement Business **Ashutosh Pandita** shed light on the company's pivotal role in the cement sector and its bullish outlook on India's infrastructure-driven growth. **Excerpts**:

Give us a brief overview of TKIL Industries and its role in the cement sector.
We are an old company, established in 1947, formerly known as Thyssenkrupp Industries. Now we are TKIL Private Limited. Our cement business started in the 1980s, and over the last four and a half decades, we have built plants ranging from 650 tonne per day to 11,500 tonne per day. We provide end-to-end solutions—from design and engineering to supply and after-sales service. Our strength is German technology from Thyssenkrupp Polysius, backed by our decades of Indian expertise.

You have major clients, yet your name isn't prominent. Is it because you are not a listed entity?
Yes, we are not a listed company, as of now. That is a factor.

Any plans for an IPO?
Not as of now. I have not heard such discussions. Things are ever-evolving, but nothing is cast in stone.

Who are your big clients in the cement industry?
We are associated with the who's who of the industry. We supply plants to UltraTech, and we have ongoing projects and existing plants with Adani Group. We work with Shree Cements, Wonder Cement, and in Southern India, with Ramco Cements and Madras Cements. We are present across length and breadth of India.

With govt's push on infra, I expect cement industry to grow at 6-7% CAGR. Even a conservative 5% growth means adding 30 million tonne of capacity every year

What is your outlook for the Indian cement industry?
I am positive. With the government's push on infra, I expect the industry to grow at 6-7% CAGR. Even a conservative 5% growth means adding 30 million tonne of capacity every year. This is huge and presents both an opportunity and a challenge for us.

Thyssenkrupp has exited your business. What is the relationship now?
While they have divested their equity, we have a perpetual licence agreement for their technology from Polysius. Our core territory is India, Nepal, and Bangladesh. For projects outside this, like in the Middle East or Africa where we are executing projects, we consult with Thyssenkrupp Polysius on a case-to-case basis.

How important is sustainability for capital goods company like yours?
It's not an issue, it's a topic that leads us to the national goal of net zero by 2047. We are on the right track. We supply energy-efficient grinding systems, fuel-efficient pyro processing, and alternate fuel feeding systems that allow customers to replace fossil fuels, reducing carbon footprint.

Are Indian companies less sensitive to sustainability than European ones?
I wouldn't say less sensitive. The industries are at different phases. Europe is mature with few new plants, so their focus is on sustainability. India is still building capacity, but we are seriously discussing and implementing ways to cut carbon footprint for long term.

Do you see consolidation in Indian cement market?
Yes, the next 5-10 years are crucial. The industry faces enormous challenges — rising costs, market volatility, and geopolitical situations. We have already seen consolidation and I see more happening.

MONEY-WISE

TOP-UP FOR HEALTH INSURANCE COVER

FINANCIAL ADVICE
ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India.
He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com
(Views expressed here are personal)

HEALTHCARE costs in India are on the ascent at a double-digit growth rate. The reliance on only a base health insurance policy can often prove costly. In case of expensive treatments, long stays in the hospital, or a medical crisis, the base sum insured might not be enough. That is when Top-up and Super Top-up plans prove crucial. These add-ons serve as financial shields that get activated after the core policy has been depleted, providing greater coverage at lower premiums. For families and especially retirees, such add-ons fill in the gap andprovide peace of mind and real monetary security when medical bills soar aboveexpectation.

Top-up plans don't get activated until the insured's hospitalisation claim meets or exceeds pre-set deductible threshold. Super Top-up plans combine medical claims made within a policy year and after total claims exceed deductible, the plan pays for balance. This makes Super Top-ups more useful to those with multiple claims in the same calendar year, and more particularly, the elderly or chronically ill in need of recurrent care.

Super Top-ups are useful for the elderly, families with older members, or individuals with the need for frequent medical intervention as the cumulative benefit feature in super top-ups safeguard against repeated hospitalisation within a year. Though they have benefits, there are limitations. Deductibles in case of these policies are high, which implies that policyholders need to spend a lot before the cover kicks in. For Super Top-up policies, cashless claims can sometimes get rejected if the base and top-up policies are not with the same insurer, making settlement difficult.

Customer experiences identify areas of concern like restricted pre-and post-hospitalisation cover and admin delays when policies are split over insurers. Infrequent users of health services might find it easier to upgrade their base policy rather than keep several layers of cover. Therefore, though these policies appear impressive, a closer scrutiny of terms and conditions and actual usage must be evaluated prior to purchase. Financial planners suggest going in for a base health policy accompanied by a Super Top-up from same company, as it provides hassle-free claim settlement and cashless hospitalisation without obstacles.

For low-risk healthy individuals, a basic Top-up plan would suffice. Those with long-term illnesses, old dependents and expecting more than one claim a year must consider Super Top-ups for all-round financial security. Finally, budget constraints, family medical background, location and long-term healthcare aspirations should dictate whether a top-up, super top-up, or a bigger base policy should be purchased. In modern times, where income is outpaced by inflation and rising costs are fueled by advances in medicine and medical technology, Top-up and Super Top-up health insurance plans are key in enhancing financial readiness. They help the insured to build layered protection that guarantees access to quality care without debilitating financial costs.

For those who do not yet have a Top-Up or Super Top-Up plan, it is worth looking into the feasibility of getting one.

MONEY MATTERS

WHY TAKE INDIA'S FINTECH REVOLUTION SERIOUSLY

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE
RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

BY now, you are aware of the impact that artificial intelligence and data science have on your money. Everyone looking to sell a product or a service to you anticipates your actions. They do it with the help of your digital footprint. The choices you make when buying anything online provide them with adequate information about your spending and investing patterns. For example, if you use credit cards and manage to make payments on time, you build a credit history. When you take out a personal or home loan, your timely repayments help lenders understand your repayment habits. The offers you get are tailored accordingly.

All of that was happening even before FinTech revolution. However, the intensity with which the information is gathered is changing rapidly. Your information is available to those interested in selling anything to you in almost real-time. Through AI and machine learning, information about multiple potential borrowers is analysed instantly. The voluminous data can be used to predict your future actions by combining your repayment history with your latest banking activity.

Additionally, India's digital public infrastructure is reaching new heights. Last week's Global FinTech Festival in Mumbai, organised by institutions like the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) and other quasi-government bodies, showcased biometric ID usage for payments on the Unified Payment Interface (UPI). Until now, to make UPI payments, you used a secret PIN. Now, you can use your face ID or fingerprint to authorise transactions on your smartphone. This is all set to create efficiencies and enhance productivity.

The term 'India Stack' was mentioned in keynote speeches and reports released during the event. The message from the government authorities was standard. Use the digital public infrastructure for inclusion. Sanjay Malhotra, the Reserve Bank governor, mentioned the account aggregators' (AA) ecosystem that empowers individuals to share their financial data safely with regulated entities. "This ecosystem has seen notable progress with 17 AAs, 650 Financial Information Users (FIUs), 150 Financial Information Providers (FIPs), 160 million accounts being served, and 3.66 billion data requests from FIUs processed by AAs," he highlighted.

What it means

The evolution of new technology creates opportunities and challenges. Businesses are looking to solve market problems with the help of technology. They are incorporating AI, machine learning and data science to enhance their ability to help customers. Some of them are threatened or directly affected by the evolving technology. Such a situation creates anxiety in the markets. Investors are using discretion while buying into companies. Not everything in technology or finance is interesting. Share prices of the traditional IT services companies have saw a sharp fall in 2025. The Nifty 50 gained 7% while the Nifty IT index fell by over 16%.

That shows investor concerns about future of IT services companies. During the same period, share prices of consumer tech companies like Eternal (owner of Zomato) and One97 Communications (Paytm) rose 25%. Foreign portfolio investors are selling fewer Indian shares after selling record quantities so far. Both foreigners and domestic institutional investors and high networth investors are investing in initial public offerings. The issue of LG Electronics India, the subsidiary of Korean consumer giant, received an overwhelming response.

The selling shareholders sought ₹11,600 crore but received bids for over ₹4,40,000 crore. Many more companies are lining up to go public. Tata Capital, Pine Labs and many others are expected to raise record amount of capital. For you, businesses that cater to underserved markets are good for future growth. You must read public offer documents and understand how companies plan to use your money. The new-age businesses need you to learn. You can discuss these potential investments with your financial advisor. Investing regularly is the best way to create wealth in the long-term.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

TCS layoff: Unions ask govt to take steps

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

DAYS after Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) admitted that it has lain off 19,755 employees during its Q2FY26 results announcement last week, three IT unions issued a statement on Sunday, asking the state and Union governments to take responsibility for their failure to enforce labour laws and regulate IT companies.

The joint statement was issued by Karnataka State IT/ITES Employees Union (KITU) general secretary Suhas Adiga, Association of IT Employees (AITE)-Kerala general secretary AD Jayan, and Union of IT and ITES Employees (UNITE)-Tamil Nadu general secretary Alagunambi Welkin.

It said, "We urge state and central governments to take responsibility for their failure to enforce labour laws and regulate IT firms, allowing corporations like TCS to exploit and mistreat employees with impunity. The lack of oversight and enforcement has emboldened companies to disregard workers' rights, and it is imperative that governments take actions to protect the rights and livelihoods of workers by regulating these companies immediately."

In the earnings call, TCS has accepted that it has seen a net reduction of 19,755 employees during the quarter. The company has officially reported a total headcount of 5,93,314 against 6,13,069 in Q1FY26. The statement also said the company has "let go" 38,255 employees in Q2. "When combined with the number of new hires made during the same period, it reveals that a staggering 38,255 employees were let go in this single quarter."

Senior employees of TCS to receive higher variables

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

TCS chief human resource officer Sudeep Kunnumal has announced a higher variable for senior employees of the company in this quarter based on individual and team performance and a 100% bonus of quarterly variable allowances (QVA) to junior staff, adding that the company will increase its overall quarterly bonus compared with previous quarters.

Kunnumal assured that the junior employees who are in grades C, C1, and C2 will continue to get 100% variable pay and also continue to get their usual annual salary hikes.

Biocon's new US facility clears key FDA hurdle, to strengthen footprint

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

BIOCON Ltd has announced that its first manufacturing facility in the US, in Cranbury, New Jersey, has undergone a critical good manufacturing practices (GMP) inspection by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The inspection, a mandatory requirement for supplying the regulated US market, concluded with a single observation. According to the company, this observation is minor and will be addressed within the stipulated time frame. Biocon has assured stakeholders that the outcome is not expected to impact current or planned business operations from the site.

The state-of-the-art Cranbury facility was inaugurated in September and represents a strategic investment to strengthen Biocon's footprint in a key international market. The site is designed to enhance supply chain resilience and enable faster access to the company's vertically integrated portfolio of products for patients across the region.

"The Cranbury facility is a strategic asset that will bring our high-quality, affordable therapies to patients in the US more efficiently and reliably," the company said in an exchange filing.

The facility is already operational, with some products having been commissioned from the site. With several additional product launches in the pipeline, the New Jersey plant is poised to play a pivotal role in Biocon's mission to expand global access to essential medicines.

The Cranbury facility represents a strategic advancement for the Company's US operations, enabling faster access to essential therapies, enhanced supply reliability and a stronger connection with partners and healthcare providers, ultimately benefitting patients across the United States.

AIFF adopts constitution approved by Supreme Court

The All India Football Federation adopted its Supreme Court-approved constitution on Sunday, leaving out two contentious clauses "pending directions from the Apex court". The SC on September 19 had approved the draft constitution of the AIFF prepared by former SC judge L Nageswara Rao with certain modifications.

Healy's comet: Captain leads Oz to record win vs India

Mandhana's 80-run knock goes in vain as Australia complete highest run chase in Women's ODIs to hand hosts second consecutive defeat

GOMESH S @ Visakhapatnam

IT was the beginning of the 43rd over during India's innings at the ACA-VDCA Stadium here. The Women in Blue were on a rampage of sorts, racing to 287/5 in 42 overs. They had seen Smriti Mandhana lay the foundation, break records, become the first woman cricketer to score a 1000 ODI runs in a calendar year before eventually getting out for 80 runs from 66 balls.

Along with Pratika Rawal, who also went on to score a fifty (75 off 96 balls), she added 155 runs for the first wicket. Once the openers fell, the middle-order had kept the momentum going with Richa Ghosh getting promoted to No 6. Jemimah Rodrigues and Ghosh looked comfortable in the middle. Desperate to put the brakes, Australia turned to their best pacer in this World Cup — Annabel Sutherland.

Sutherland had already taken the wicket of Rawal with a short ball and was now up against Rodrigues and Ghosh. She started with a short ball to both and conceded seven runs in the first four balls. A fuller delivery followed before Sutherland resorted to another short-of-length ball against Ghosh. Except this time, it was a back-of-arm release and it worked. Deceived by the lack of pace, Ghosh found the fielder, and Australia the opening.

In her next over, the same back-of-arm delivery worked against Rodrigues too. And the floodgates opened. From 294/5 after 43 overs, India were bundled out for 330 in 48.5 overs, with Sutherland taking 5/40 on her birthday. Judging by the way the pitch behaved and how nicely the ball came on to the bat, it seemed like they had fallen short by a fair few. Even more so considering the fact that India went in with five bowlers and Australia could bat till No 10.

India's Smriti Mandhana and Australia's Alyssa Healy in action | G SATYANARAYANA

And it showed in the chase with Alyssa Healy walking the talk from the pre-match press conference. On the eve of the contest when asked if it is ideal to take a cautious approach in the powerplay, Healy did not agree with the premise of it. "I actually still think the power play plays a crucial role in this World Cup. There's a little bit of a fine balance in that regard, but I think both of us at the top of the order are quite aggressive players, so we're not exactly going to curb that at any point," she had said.

That is exactly what Healy and Phoebe Litchfield did. They took the attack to Amanjot Kaur and Kranti Gaud first, and then to Sneh Rana, adding 82 runs in the powerplay. Litchfield fell to India's best bowler on the night — NR Sree Charani — but Healy held it all together. Against one of her favourite opponents, the Australian captain brought out her best. She launched a calculated counterattack, built a partnership with Ellyse Perry before the all-rounder retired hurt, and kept Australia on course.

When she and Beth Mooney were batting together, it seemed like the contest was all over. So much so that the Indian leadership group looked fidgety. For almost every delivery, Harmanpreet Kaur and Mandhana were in the ears of the bowlers. That is when Rodrigues pulled off a stunning catch to get rid of Mooney. It inspired India to an extent, but did not stop Healy. Despite the humidity and exhaustion, she battled on, and got to her century in 84 balls.

Shortly after, she unleashed herself again, allowing Ashleigh Garnder to hold fort and take the chase deep. A six and four came of Rana before Gaud, Amanjot and even Sree Charani took a beating. It seemed like she was going to take Australia home, but Rana held on to a low catch. She fell for 142 from 107 balls, but not before putting Australia in a winning position. India tried their best to fight back with Deepti Sharma trapping Tahlia McGrath, and Amanjot castling Gardner, but Australia needed 16 runs from 18 balls and Perry had gotten back in the middle.

From thereon, it was all about holding the nerves together and Australia did just that to get across the line.

Brief scores: 330 in 48.5 ovs (Mandhana 80, Rawal 75; Sutherland 5/40) **lost to** Australia 331/7 in 49 ovs (Healy 142, Perry 47 n.o, Gardner 45; Shree Charani 3/41).

South Africa challenge awaits B'desh

With Bangladesh taking on South Africa on Monday, a look...

Focus on Fargana

They have beaten Pakistan, pushed England but will have to do more to have a chance at winning against South Africa. And for that, their premier batter, Fargana Hoque, has to perform. She's been a torchbearer of sorts for Bangladesh and they need her now more than ever.

Seeking crucial win

With two wins in their last three games, Wolvaardt and Co will like to make it three before travelling to Sri Lanka. Knowing that they are yet to face Australia, SA will want to ensure their qualification in the top four before the toughest contest comes along.

Bangladesh vs South Africa, Visakhapatnam, 3PM

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS AND JIOHOTSTAR

Rarest Kuldeep conjures up his magic to give India edge

Kuldeep Yadav (C) celebrates a West Indies wicket with teammates | SAYANTAN GHOSH

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ New Delhi

OUT of the 1000s of spinners to have cracked cricket at the elite level, only a handful have attempted left-arm wristspin. That isn't a surprise because you need to be rarest of the rare to a) become a leftie and b) practise wristspin.

Kuldeep Yadav is one of them. It already makes him sui generis, the rarest of rare. One of very few. And, for a very long time, Indian cricket, while maintaining his singularity, put him on the bench. "He's a match-winner," they maintained. "But we are better off without that match-winner." Okay, they never said that last sentence but they have consistently shown a reticence to play him in Tests. Some of it had to do with India's already ample spin riches in the form of R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel, the three spinners trusted ahead of Yadav at home. Once Ashwin retired, Washington Sundar neatly stepped in to fill that void.

But that's kind of missing the point because Yadav gives this attack a point of difference. If you have the Mona Lisa in your collection, you display it in your living room, you don't put it in your basement. But different regimes have kind of held the 30-year-back. Most recently, the current regime refused to give themselves the shortest possible route to 20 wickets throughout the England series. They played the back-up pace-bowling all-rounder, the back-up spin-bowling all-rounder and gave a cap to a bowler not part of the original set-up. All through this, Yadav sat and pondered. Sure, it's not all black and white and it's dependent on conditions but he has shown, especially of late, that he can take conditions out of the equation. And, yet, six-and-a-half years after Ravi Shastri's proclamation, he largely exists in the shadows in the sport's longest format. On Sunday, the wristspinner conjured his fifth five-wicket haul in Tests. In the process, the hosts edged towards a 2-0 series win against the West Indies.

If the wicket he claimed on Saturday evening was a bait that Alick Athanaze couldn't refuse, his almost non-stop spell on Sunday saw him go through the tricks of the left-arm wristspin trade. There was the stock delivery, the one turning into the right-hander. He occasionally slipped in the wrong'un, the one turning away from the right-hander. With the pitch still maintaining its integrity by and large, he knew he had to dig deep. So out came the one with some drift as if the ball was moved by an invisible fan before it pitched on length just outside off stump before turning back just a smidgen to beat Shai Hope's outside edge. Its intended target — the off-stump — was knocked back.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Scoreboard

India 1st inns 518/5 decl; WI 1st inns(O/n 140/4): Hope b Kuldeep 36, Greaves lbw b Kuldeep 17, Pierre b Bumrah 23, Warrican b Siraj 1, Phillip not out 24, Seales lbw b Kuldeep 13; **Extras:** (b5, 18lb, 5nb) 28; **Total:** (all out in 81.5 ovs) 248; **FoW:** 5-156, 6-163, 7-174, 8-175, 9-221; **Bowling:** Bumrah 14-4-40-1, Siraj 9-2-16-1, Jadeja 19-5-46-3, Kuldeep 26.5-4-82-5, Washington 13-2-41-0; **WI 2nd inns (F/o):** Campbell batting 87, Chanderpaul c Gill b Siraj 10, Athanaze b Washington 7, Hope batting 66; **Extras:** (2b, 1nb) 3; **Total:** (2 wkts in 49 ovs) 173; **FoW:** 1-17, 2-35; **Bowling:** Siraj 6-2-10-1, Jadeja 14-3-52-0, Washington 13-3-44-1, Kuldeep 11-0-53-0, Bumrah 4-2-9-0, Jaiswal 1-0-3-0.

Campbell and Hope keep WI in the contest

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ New Delhi

SHAI Hope and John Campbell have happy memories of batting together. In an ODI against Ireland, the pair put on 365 runs for the first wicket in 2019. It remains the second highest stand in the history of the format. Since that august day in May six years ago, they have been waiting for a collective moment like that under the sun. Late on Sunday evening in front of a small but energetic crowd, they put on an unbroken stand of 138 runs in 34.3 overs to drag the second Test into a fourth day.

When India asked the visitors to follow on, they would have had designs on an early finish and, potentially, spending a few days at home before flying to Australia for a multi-format series. Now? Shubman Gill and Co. have been in the field for over 125 overs and may even be forced to steal a glance at the scoreboard if Hope and Campbell continue to mix caution with aggression deep into the first session on Monday.

The hosts are still in a commanding position as they lead by 97 runs but on a pitch where not a lot is happening, Hope and Campbell will have designs on carrying on.

In the pre-match press conference, the West Indian think-tank challenged their batters to rise to the occasion and show some hunger and that's exactly what the pair did. "They have applied themselves very well," said offspinner Khary Pierre after the day's play. "We are in this game."

Nobody had that feeling four hours into the third day when they were 2/35. Washington Sundar had just breached through the defences of Alick Athanaze and tea was taken. Post tea, Hope and Campbell dealt with the turn in their own way. Campbell is an impulsive sweeper but he's also somebody whose hands are low, one of the key recipes to make that shot work in the sub-continent. With the bounce predictable and the turn slow, it's perhaps one of the safer attacking shots.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

ANMOL GURUNG @ Guwahati

AMIDST a sea of young badminton prospects here at the ongoing BWF World Junior Championships, Indian teenager Rounak Chouhan is aiming to touch the sky. The National Centre of Excellence for Badminton in Amingaon, here, is where he has been brushing his skills for the past two years or so. With ambitions to lift his game before entering the senior stage, Rounak is aiming to bid goodbye to his junior career with aplomb. C Lalramsanga (doubles specialist) and Unnati Hooda might have generated headlines in India's historic triumph over Korea, a victory in the quarterfinals that helped them secure bronze, Rounak had also made a telling contribution then. In fact, it was stuff of dreams for Rounak, given his strong association with the venue.

"It (win) was unreal. The atmosphere here in NCOE...all the fans cheering us, the teammates were also doing the same. It was a great feeling as this was the first time India had won a medal," he reflected. In the deciding game, India were trailing by two points when Rounak stepped in for the third time on the day. After the completion of that tie, he had turned the tide in India's favour, handing the hosts a five-point lead. Hooda & Lalramsange, alongside mixed doubles partner Aanya Bisht, had applied the finishing touches. The youngster was just glad to be part of the history-making crew.

Rounak Chouhan is aiming to end junior career on a high | BADMINTON PHOTO

VISUALIZATION EXERCISE & MUSIC IN ROUNAK'S RISE

"Playing in front of your home crowd is a massive opportunity. It happens rarely. I was a bit nervous at the start. The team was trailing by two points and I conceded two more points. But I managed to regain focus by performing breathing exercises, something I do during matches. After that, I went on to win the tie. Maybe, that helped us. Unnati also did really well. Vishwa Tej Gobburu and Bhargav Ram Arigela (doubles pairing) also played their part. We had to do it because we were playing at home."

With the mixed team event done and dusted, Rounak is looking to carry forward the momentum into the individual events for Eye Level Cup, which is set to get underway from Monday.

The confidence level has soared but he is also bearing shades of nervousness, understandably so. "I'm confident as I have been training in the same centre for the last two years or so and I know all the conditions well. I have faced most players, who'll be part of this draw, in previous tournaments. It's a good opportunity for me. I kind of understand my rivals' thought processes. I am a bit nervous too," the 18-year-old from Raipur, who's the highest-ranked (Indian (Junior World No 14) in the men's singles draw, said.

Having picked up the sport after watching his elder sister play, Rounak, who hails from Raipur, said he has taken significant steps as a player after joining the NCOE in 2023. "Training here is tough, gym sessions and the on-court sessions. It's a great opportunity for all the trainees here. You get motivated when you see better playing coming against you every day. You tend to set a goal for yourself. I have been working more on my net game. My attack is one of my strengths and I also feel I play good variations from the back court. I'm also good at the defence part." Visualization exercises before every match he enters has also worked wonders for him apart from his regular training sessions. "Before any match, I usually listen to music. I try to be in the zone and do some visualization before the match night."

His hunger to learn is evident as he is aware of the size of task ahead of him down the road. Having sampled a couple of senior tournaments (2024 nationals and All-India senior meet this year, he is hopeful of getting more match-experience at the high level.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

PKL: Paltan win thriller, Bulls continue good run

NEW DELHI: Puneri Paltan fought off Dabang Delhi K.C. to take home an impressive 6-5 win after the match was tied at 38-38 at the Thyagaraj Stadium on Sunday. In another fixture, Bengaluru Bulls secured a massive 43-32 win over the Bengal Warriorz.

No Indian in skeet finals at Shotgun World C'ship

ATHENS: None of the Indian shooters could make the individual finals in either the men's or women's skeet events at the ISSF World Championship for Shotgun. In the women's skeet, Raiza Dhillon was the best-placed Indian, finishing 16th.

Jr Indian hockey team beats NZ for 2nd win

JOHOR (MALAYSIA): The Indian junior men's hockey team continued their unbeaten run at the Sultan of Johor Cup with a comfortable 4-2 win against New Zealand on Sunday.

Tanvi & Co's quest for individual glory begins

ANMOL GURUNG @ Guwahati

FRIDAY was a monumental day for India's young crop of talented shuttlers. A day that brought unbridled joy as they secured a medal in the mixed team event of the BWF World Junior Championships in Guwahati. That was incidentally the country's first-ever medal in the history of the competition.

Tanvi Sharma

The very next day, their noteworthy campaign came to an end but despite that, the shuttlers are bound to be abuzz. However, they can't afford to rest on their laurels for too long as the focus turns to individual events — the Eye Level Cup. In an event that has been on since 1992, India's best-ever campaign came 17 years ago at home soil (Pune) when Saina Nehwal pocketed the gold in the women's (U-19) singles category while RMV Guru Sai Dutt clinched the bronze. The current crop of talented shuttlers will be hoping to better that performance. Needless to say, it won't be easy as a cream of young talents from around the world have assembled here with tall ambition.

Much focus will be on Tanvi Sharma, who has been seeded as No 1 in the women's singles. Having gotten a first-round bye, the youngster, who captured bronze during the Asia Junior Championships earlier this year, will begin her campaign from the Round of 64 stage.

Likewise, Unnati Hooda (same category) has been drawn in the other half and after her splendid display in the team event, she will be looking to challenge for a podium finish.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Basant bags gold but fails to qualify for U20 Worlds

ENS @ Bhubaneswar

RAJASTHAN'S teenager Basant was among the athletes who narrowly missed the World U20 Athletics Championships qualification mark despite winning gold in their respective disciplines in day three of the National Junior Athletics Championships here on Sunday. Competing in the men's U20 high jump, Basant breached 2.11 metres, a centimetre short of the qualification mark (2.12m).

The U20 Worlds is scheduled to happen in Oregon, USA next year. Basant's state-mate Narpat Singh also missed out on the qualification mark, in the men's U20 hammer throw. Singh finished with gold with a distance of 67.45m. The qualification mark was 68m.

Select results (winners only): Boys: U18 Shot put: Nishchay (Haryana) 19.48m, Long jump: Shivam Yadav (Uttar Pradesh) 7.34m, U16 High jump: Sakthivel VN (Tamil Nadu) 1.81m; **Girls:** U20 Triple jump: Paveena Rajesh (Tamil Nadu) 12.42m; U16: High jump: Abiya Ann Gigi (Kerala) 1.56m (meet record)

India men's team loses 0-3 to Hong Kong in Asian Team TT

BHUBANESWAR: India's men's table tennis team suffered a one-sided 0-3 defeat against Hong Kong in the quarterfinals of the 28th ITTF-ATTU Asian Team Table Tennis Championships on Sunday. Korea will now face hosts India in the classification round for fifth place.

Haaland grabs hat trick for Norway, Ronaldo goalless in Portugal's win

AGENCIES @ London

ERLING Haaland further enhanced his superstar reputation with a hat trick for Norway in a 5-0 home win against Israel while Cristiano Ronaldo drew a blank as Portugal beat Ireland 1-0 in World Cup qualifying on Saturday. Haaland moved onto 51 Norway goals in just 46 matches, as Ronaldo failed to increase his all-time international men's scoring record of 141.

European champions Spain beat Georgia 2-0 while Italy won 3-1 at Estonia to stop goal-hungry Norway getting too far ahead. The 2020 Euro winners had gone ahead early through striker Moise Kean, who plays for Fiorentina in Serie A. But Kean then limped off with what appeared to be a right ankle injury. Retegui found the net close to halftime and Inter Milan forward Pio Esposito turned in Leonardo Spinazzola's cross in the 74th, moments before Donnarumma's clanger.

Norway's Erling Haaland celebrates one of his goals on Saturday | AP

Spain moved to top of Group E with nine points after a third straight win without conceding a goal. Missing injured Barcelona prodigy Lamine Yamal, Spain took the lead midway through the first half thanks to Yeremy Pino. Goal-scoring midfielder Mikel Oyarzabal made it 2-0 with a free kick midway through the second half. Spain is three points clear of Turkiye, who won 6-1 at Bulgaria with two goals from Juventus forward Kenan Yildiz. Portugal's late winner secured a third straight victory and a five-point lead over second-placed Hungary in Group F.

Placement trends

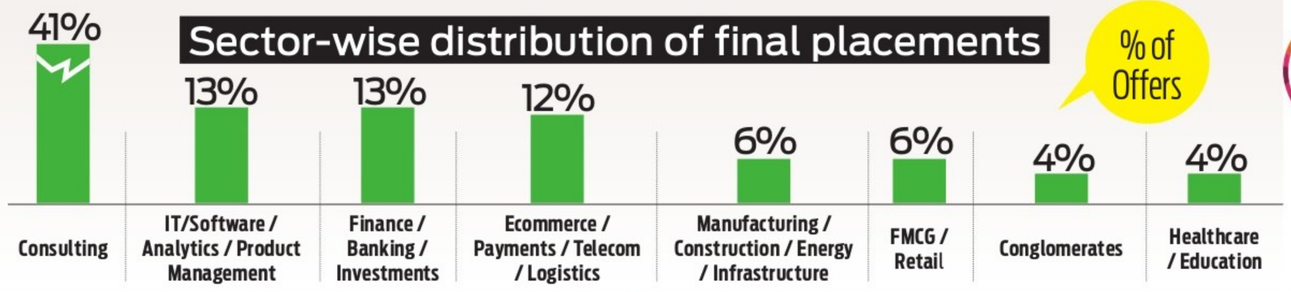
Final placements – PGP & PGPBA (Batch of 2023–25)

The placement season at IIM Bangalore reaffirmed its reputation as one of the most sought-after campuses in the country. With offers across domains and a strong recruiter base, the Class of 2023–25 concluded final placements on a high note.

602 students
177 companies

660 total offers made
Overseas offers: **22**
Opt-outs: **7**

Sector-wise distribution of final placements



263/208 Pre-placement offers (Made/Accepted)
100/89 Lateral placement offers (Made/Accepted)
298 Final placement week offers (Made/Accepted)

LEADING RECRUITERS Accenture Strategy – ***75***; Boston Consulting Group (BCG) – ***25***; TCS Management Consulting – ***24***; American Express – ***20***; Bain & Company – ***17***

Compensation (in INR, LPA) **32.61 lakh** median salary | **34.88 lakh** mean salary

Alumni Spotlight

K Radhakrishnan (PGP 1976)
Former Chairman of ISRO

Praveen Sood (PGPPM 2005)
Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

Prabha Narasimhan (PGP 1997)
Managing Director & CEO of Colgate-Palmolive India

Vipul Parekh (PGP 1996)
Co-founder & CFO/ CMO of Bigbasket

Musthafa PC (PGP 2007)
Founder and CEO of iD Fresh Food

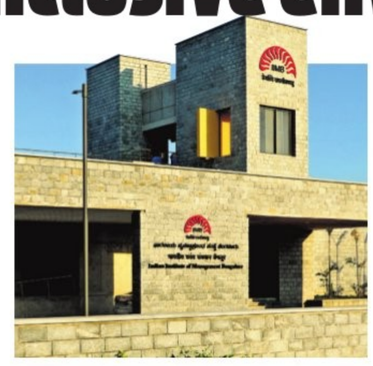
Saahil Barua (PGP 2008)
Co-founder and CEO of Delhivery

Ashok Reddy (PGP 1995)
Founder, MD, and CEO of TeamLease Services Limited

Thampy Koshy (PGP 1995)
MD & CEO of Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

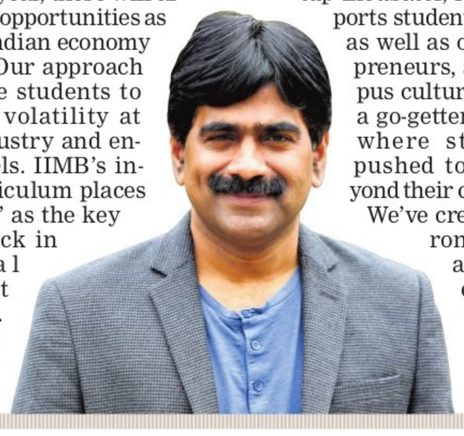
'IIMB is committed to fostering a diverse & inclusive environment'

Director U Dinesh Kumar on how the premier B-school is preparing next-generation leaders to navigate AI disruption, climate challenges and India's economic transformation



What are the unique strengths or focus areas that set IIM Bangalore apart from other IIMs?
Our location in India's Silicon Valley has allowed us to leverage Bengaluru's technology ecosystem. In 1998, we launched a weekend MBA to support the burgeoning IT sector. Our entrepreneurial ecosystem is a key differentiator; we supported 1,300+ startups last year. The Nadathur S Raghavan Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (NSRCEL), a top academic incubator, fosters innovation among students, women entrepreneurs and social ventures. Academically, IIMB offers flexibility with a high ratio of electives in the second year. It also focuses on public policy and social impact through the Centre for Public Policy (CPP), which collaborates on policy research. Globally, IIMB consistently ranks among India's leading B-schools in QS and Financial Times listings and is part of GNAM (Global Network for Advanced Management). Since 2014, we have offered MOOCs on edX, with over 50 courses reaching two million learners. We've prioritised inclusivity and accessibility, and this year reached 40% women in the PGP cohort.

What is the institute doing to strengthen industry partnerships and improve student employability?
We've learned that while the job market may have some volatility from year to year, there will always be good opportunities as long as the Indian economy is growing. Our approach is to prepare students to handle this volatility at both the industry and enterprise levels. IIMB's inventive curriculum places 'adaptability' as the key building block in functional management education. Our teaching and learning systems integrate key trends and engage with global phenomena such as AI, digital technology, and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance), with the aim of shaping management practice. For instance, students are encouraged to use generative AI tools in their assignments and projects, as this is a skill they will utilise in their professional careers. At the same time, we also emphasise that such tools cannot replace the need for a strong foundation in core subjects, and that human creativity and higher-order decision-making remain essential for meaningful differentiation in business.



How is IIM Bangalore supporting the holistic development of students beyond academics?
A significant part of the learning at IIM Bangalore comes from collaboration with peers, discussions outside the classroom, and participation in projects and competitions organised by corporations. We have adapted our approach following the pandemic, recognising that some foundational topics can be learned online at the student's convenience, which frees up valuable class time for more challenging and complex discussions. Our startup incubator, NSRCEL, supports students and faculty as well as outside entrepreneurs, and our campus culture encourages a go-getter atmosphere where students are pushed to explore beyond their comfort zones. We've created an environment where academic rigor combines with practical exposure, critical thinking, and leadership development. The institute also focuses on developing critical soft skills like resilience, adaptability, and scenario planning — attributes essential for navigating today's unpredictable business environment.

How will the new Tony James Centre shape IIM Bangalore's role in Private Equity and Venture Capital education and its impact on India's finance ecosystem?
The Tony James Centre represents a significant milestone in our commitment to advancing India's financial ecosystem. The Centre will serve as a catalytic force in shaping the future of PEVC in India. It is designed as a leading platform for academic research, industry engagement and policy dialogue. We aim to bring together global experts on private equity and venture capital trends. Given India's position as the third-largest startup ecosystem with over 80,000 startups, there is a need for financial expertise and ethical leadership. The Centre will conduct research, offer specialised education programmes and facilitate dialogue between academia, industry and policymakers.

With greater gender diversity and a wider academic mix in recent MBA cohorts, what steps is IIM Bangalore taking to deepen inclusivity and ensure diverse classroom perspectives?
Our disability inclusion framework won the NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Award 2012 for Equal Opportunity Policy, Reasonable Accommodation Procedure and procuring Assistive Technology. We recorded 40% women in this year's PGP admissions, but gender diversity extends beyond students: 52% of administrative staff are women and women serve on the board. The curriculum includes diversity and the Women in Management club fosters networking. NSRCEL has 87 employees, 52 of whom are women, comprising 59% of staff; 52% of these women occupy senior leadership roles. We also introduced a funded NSR predoc programme to bridge disadvantaged students to PhD programmes, with a 70% success rate; the current batch is 83% women.

Initiatives & collaborations

BSC (HONORS) programmes
In July 2025, IIMB announced two new four-year BSc (Honors) programmes in Data Science and Economics, which will commence in 2026 at its upcoming Jigani campus. These courses align with the NEP 2020 vision of multidisciplinarity, holistic learning, and preparing students for future industry needs.

Mitti Café: Promoting inclusivity, IIMB also inaugurated a Mitti Café on campus in 2024. Incubated at NSRCEL, the café is entirely run by adults with physical, intellectual, & psychiatric disabilities. It not only generates sustainable livelihoods but also raises awareness about accessibility and inclusive entrepreneurship, reflecting the institute's deep commitment to social responsibility.

BBA in Digital Business and Entrepreneurship (BBA-DBE)
In May 2024, IIM Bangalore launched its first-ever undergraduate programme, the BBA in Digital Business and Entrepreneurship (BBA-DBE). Delivered online through IIMBx with offline examinations, the three-year programme offers flexible exit options. Over 1,000 students from 359 cities enrolled in the inaugural batch, with women constituting 35% of the class. The programme has already led to the creation of 78 student-led startups, giving students hands-on experience in innovation and business building.

From brushstrokes and breakpoints to festivals, fests, and fierce matches, IIM Bangalore captures the soul of a campus where talent meets passion and every corner turns into a stage

Beyond classrooms, into culture

Canvas Events by Canvas
Canvas events at IIMB are all about bringing out the hidden artist in every student. They provide a platform where imagination takes center stage, whether through painting, doodling, creative writing, or collaborative art installations. What makes these events unique is their laid-back, inclusive nature: no strict rules or expectations, just an open invitation to express oneself. Students from across programs often come together, sharing ideas and laughter.

Icebreakers by Sports Council
Organised by the Sports Council, the event turns every arena — courts, pitches, tracks, and tables — into buzzing hubs of energy. From PGP1s finding their footing to EPGP athletes showcasing grit, the games are a blend of competition, laughter, and unspoken teamwork. What makes Icebreakers stand out is their spirit: even those who aren't seasoned athletes jump in, cheered on by their peers.

Tarang by Antarang Club
Tarang, organised by Antarang and the Student Welfare Office, is one of the most cherished festivals on campus, designed to spread joy and togetherness. The fest brings with it a variety of vibrant events, from music and dance to wellness activities and creative workshops. Among the highlights is the "Letter to Your Future Self" activity.

L-square Diaries - multiple clubs
The stage comes alive with soulful music, amazing dance, witty stand-up and dramatic performances. What makes it truly special is the unfiltered and contagious energy of students discovering hidden talents, cheering on their peers, and creating memories for life. For many, LSDs are the highlight of the week; a chance to unwind, laugh, and lose themselves in the joy of community.

Venix
Beyond the competitions and events, Venix 2025 was about community—about coming together to celebrate talent, passion, and shared joy. With emotional goodbyes and promises to return stronger, this year's edition ended not just as a fest but as a legendary chapter in IIMB's student life.

Inter IIM: Each match brought fierce competition, but also showcased the true essence of teamwork and sportsmanship. In the end, IIM Bangalore proudly clinched the championship title, with IIM Trichy securing the runner-up spot. The closing ceremony was made even more special with the presence of Indian cricketer Shreyas Gopal as the Chief Guest. More than just a tournament, this was a celebration of grit, determination, and friendship across campuses.

STUDENT VOICES

AKASH YADAV
PGP (2024-2026)
The best part about studying at IIM Bangalore is the classroom experience. Whichever class you sit in, they make you believe their domain is the most critical for running a business. In supply chain, you're convinced efficiency drives success; in strategy, you feel that vision matters most.

ANJALI LALCHANDANI
PGP (2025-2027)
I really appreciate how IIM Bangalore shapes you beyond academics. The rigorous environment makes you resilient, teaching you to manage chaos and adapt to fast-paced learning. You learn to trust yourself despite moments of self-doubt.

BHAVIKA WAGHDHARE
PGP (2025-2027)
My favourite part is the sheer diversity of learning inside and outside the classroom. In just three months, I've met people from so many backgrounds, engineers, doctors, entrepreneurs, and every conversation feels like a new perspective.

BEERAVELLY REVANTH REDDY
PGP (2024-2026)
The academic rigour and holistic growth at IIMB is unparalleled. Case-based teaching, diverse peers and world-class faculty sharpen students' perspective and analytical skills. Vibrant campus life and clubs offer leadership and collaboration.

SONAKSHI KAPRE
PGP (2024-2026)
My favourite part is the community. Peers from many fields are driven, fuelling our culture of striving for excellence. Professors encourage us to speak up, creating openness to debate and reach the root of issues. For me, the campus has been transformative.

TANISH VERMA
PGP (2024-2026)
The best part of studying at IIM Bangalore is how life here feels alive. The campus, full of greenery and quiet corners, gives you space to breathe when academics get overwhelming. Some of my fondest memories are late nights at Mitti, grabbing Amul ice creams, and laughter.

— Compiled by Saumya Solanki

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13.10.2025
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Debut single

In 1963, The Beatles performed their debut single, *Love Me Do* on *Sunday Night* igniting 'Beatlemania', a term describing the screaming fans

GAINING POPULARITY

In 1962, the track entered the UK chart and peaked at number 17. Two years later, it was issued in the US where it became the 4th of 6 songs by the band to hit number 1 in a year

COMPOSITION

This Lennon-McCartney composition was recorded by the band on three occasions with three different drummers, Pete Best, Ringo Starr & Andy White

BEATLES' HITS

The Beatles would go on to triumph after triumph as the 1960s went on, but in Great Britain, *She Loves You* remained the bestselling single

Events happening in and around ooru

PG 2

Kalki Koechlin shares how she associates gold with her mother and her inclination towards South Indian jewellery at a Deepavali showcase in the city

GOLDEN HOUR

Kalki Koechlin with Navya Harjani at Tyaani's store in city

SRUTHI HEMACHANDRAN

KALKI Koechlin radiated timeless elegance at the recent Deepavali showcase of Karan Johar's Tyaani Jewellery on Dickenson Road in Bengaluru. Draped in an olive-green saree, she struck a balance between old-world charm and modern sophistication. Her choker-style polki necklace with deep pink drops and matching earrings added a beautiful contrast to her look, while pink blooms tucked into her sleek bun lent a soft touch. With her serene smile and effortless grace, Koechlin embodied the soulful calm of *Kabira*.

When the conversation started with her personal connection with jewellery, Koechlin's tone softened with nostalgia. For her, jewellery is not merely an ornament but a keepsake of love, as she says, "I associate gold with my mother, because she always bought it for me since I got my ears pierced when I was six. She'd say, 'This is gold, it's very precious, you've got to keep it.' The idea of keeping something delicate in gold has stayed with me and I've a lot of South Indian jewellery."

This Deepavali, Koechlin's choices are guided by her mood, sometimes elegant, sometimes easygoing. "If I'm going to be out and wearing a saree, then I'll choose something Indian and I like polkies a lot," she says. "But if I'm in jeans and a T-shirt, I'd just wear gold hoops or something simple." Her effortless sense of style mirrors the same balance of grace and ease that defines her presence. For her, timelessness extends beyond fashion and sparkle. "It comes not just from the future of it, but the past, the craftsmen and craftswomen who've been doing this for generations. They carry knowledge that's really precious and we shouldn't lose that." Her words reflected a quiet reverence for tradition, craftsmanship and the enduring stories woven into every piece of jewellery.

Tyaani's city store is run by Navya Harjani. Sharing deets from the shooting schedule of the brand, Koechlin says, "One of the shots we did was of a boxer in a boxing ring, and that's not what you usually associate with classical jewellery. It's lovely to see them explore different faces and personalities for the campaign," she opines. As the evening wound down, Koechlin, known for her performances in *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara* (2011); *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani* (2013); and *Gully Boy* (2019), offered a glimpse into her screen projects. "I'm going to start a project, which is a horror show, and I've finished one called *Bhay* for Amazon Mini, which should be releasing soon," she revealed, her calm confidence shining as brightly as the jewellery she wore.

A poster of *Bhay* also featuring Karan Tacker

Beyond the Main Character

This recently-opened In Celestial Company exhibit tells the stories of the supporting characters in Indian mythology

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

APSARAS who enchant kings and rishis with their beauty; gandharvas who captivate with their musical skill; vahanas, faithful and fiercely protective; fantastic creatures that are elephant, lion, and servant at once – Indian mythology is teeming with fascinating characters apart from the heroes, heroines, gods and goddesses whom artists have long paid homage to.

As curator Priya Chauhan explains, it is this supporting cast of figures that the Museum of Art and Photography's new exhibit In Celestial Company seeks to bring centre stage. She says, "We see these celestial beings in architecture and paintings, but often overlook them because the focus is on the central figure. In the exhibition, these creatures come to the fore. It's about their stories and the significance they bring to the lives of these divine beings. They're guardians, companions, they make the divine visible and relatable, and they remind us that myth is never really about one figure alone. It is always about these networks, relationships and the worlds in between."

The exhibit includes pieces across mediums, including sculptures, textiles and miniature paintings, created between the late 19th and 20th centuries by artists whose names have been lost to time. "Once you start noticing these beings, they are in most artworks, sculptures and paintings. So we ended up selecting a few key figures – you see a beautiful Prabhavali laced with yazhis, vahanas that are usually used in processions, but here, they are devoid of deities and are by themselves. We have some temple hangings, ganas, gandharvas, and apsaras," explains Chauhan, adding that the exhibit is an opportunity to learn lesser-known facts about these characters. "You'll get to know that ganas have their own language – they conversed in gibberish that was not to be understood by anybody else. There are these small details which turn into this world of wonder," she says.

PICS: NAVNEETH DINESH AND PHILIPPE CALIA

The exhibit includes pieces across mediums created between the late 19th and 20th centuries

Garuda, Vishnu's loyal and powerful eagle vahana, is the subject of an immersive installation at the exhibit and one of its major highlights. At the centre of the exhibition are three Rajasthani miniature paintings that detail his story. Chauhan explains, "The paintings show a few chapters from Garuda's life – he's saving his mother, and in the process, he has to steal the pot of amrit, but at the same time, he has to ensure they stay in good hands. All the elements come to life in the 360-degree experience, and you learn about the techniques involved and explore the morally grey areas that these often mischievous characters operate in and the questions of good and bad in the story." She adds that audio guides are also in place for those with visual impairments, along with tactile books that allow visitors to feel the form of the sculptures.

"It's designed to spark wonder across generations, whether you come in with deep knowledge of mythology or just curiosity, I'm sure you'll find something in there that you'll take back. You'll start noticing these creatures on buildings all over Bengaluru," concludes Chauhan.

(In Celestial Company is open to visitors at The Museum of Art and Photography, Kasturba Road, from Tuesday to Sunday, 10am onwards. For more information, visit mapindia.org)

CITY READ

Run organised to raise awareness against arthritis

DHEE Hospitals on Kanakapura Road, organised the DARE RUN 2025 on Sunday, coinciding with World Arthritis Day, bringing together over 5,000 participants from all walks of life to spread awareness about arthritis and the importance of prevention, early diagnosis and active living. The event featured a 5K and 10K Run, along with a 5K fun walk/run, flagged off by Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya. The run started at Forum South, Konanakunte Cross Metro Station and ended at the hospital.

Sakthivel Periyasamy, who walked the Fashion Week ramp

Classic stripes make fashion strides

Having taken the jamakkalam to the London Fashion Week, sustainable designer Vino Supraja talks about representing the pride of Bhavani, Erode, on a global stage

ANUSREE PV

TRAVELLING back to the hinterlands through the muddy roads that takes her to the destination, feeling every bit of the rustic life, is like reliving old days in her village, Vandavasi in Tamil Nadu, for Vino Supraja. When she visits the weavers, she feels like 'going back to her roots'. For this sustainable fashion designer, her business travels in India are personal, an experience close to her heart.

This Dubai-based designer has made a conscious choice to steer off the path to sustainable fashion, which is a 'lifelong commitment'. After spending the initial years of her career in fashion in Detroit, while she was pursuing Fashion Marketing in Dubai, she had a life-changing experience. When a teacher made her watch *The True Cost*, she was exposed to the 'dark side of fashion'. "I came to know about how garment workers are treated in factories, and how their wages are compromised. It was hard-hitting," she shares.

Taking local to global

The commitment that she wanted to bring the stories of people remained unshaken. Nothing was intentional, nothing was planned; her travels to the rural pockets and her fascination with traditional fabrics drove her forward. After being recognised as a Global Sustainable Fashion Trailblazer in the British Parliament House of Commons for showcasing Therukuthu at London Fashion Week in 2023, the invitation from the London Fashion Week and the display of Bhavani jamakkalam in late September came unexpectedly to her.

"My first trip to Bhavani [in Erode] was as a tourist to see how jamakkalam is made. I saw a few striking visuals. No youngsters were seen. Secondly, looms covered with cobwebs, not in use," she recalls. The sight of few weavers spinning in a room, with rows of 40-50 looms, and their words, "The next generation is not interested because they feel they can't earn much," were etched in Supraja's mind.

There is a reason why such weaving rooms are sparsely occupied. Supraja says, "They tell me that the demand has gone down." Bhavani jamakkalam used to be the rug that we spread on the floor during any occasion in our homes. But now we have stopped sitting on the floor.

A new identity

While the ways of celebrations are evolving, such handwoven textiles are on the verge of vanishing. Supraja set her sights on giving a new form to this textile. The stripes, she says, are the signature identity of jamakkalam, and the colour blocking has a notable symmetry. "They look modern with the stripes. The first thing that I could reimagine was to make handbags out of them," Supraja says.

There were certain aspects that made it look premium. "It involved a lot of research to make the product prototype, because people have moved away from the old ways of dyeing the yarn." But the process of dyeing demanded old techniques. Finding someone who could do that – bring the logo zipper and all the accessories in the same shade of gold – was one of the challenges she faced. "In Bhavani jamakkalam, the warp is white yarn; only the rest is coloured. But in the end product, one can only see coloured lines. The longitudinal lines are hidden."

Vino Supraja

A model at the London Fashion Week

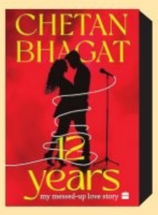
It took them a year to bring out the J Collection, which they are selling in Dubai and Singapore. While she was working with this product development and with the weavers of Bhavani, the opportunity to showcase at the London Fashion Week came again, and she knew that jamakkalam had the potential to go global. Throughout the project, her focus was to shift the limelight to the weavers. "The minute a heritage craft goes onto the mood board, it is the duty of the designer/ brand to give credits," Supraja says.

When Supraja presented her latest sustainable collection, WEAVE: A Bhavani Tribute, the man behind the craft, Sakthivel Periyasamy, one of the senior-most members of the weavers community in Bhavani, walked on to the stage of the Fashion Week. Supraja ensured that the representation of the village and their craft had to be in the most authentic way. She didn't want to depict the weavers as vulnerable, nor did she want to convey the message that it's a sinking business. Rather, she presented this handloom, spun with the magic spells of the weavers of Bhavani, with pride.

Supraja describes the room as 'swooning with many emotions' as Sakthivel walked with her on the ramp, clad in a veshti, white shirt, and angavasthram around his shoulder, holding a charka. The orchestration of the background music was a way of honouring the ancient rhythms of folklore, giving a final stroke to the runway walk. Paul Jacob composed a unique track with the ancient instruments melded with a rap in English.

With the powerful music, the weavers of Bhavani were applauded. Filled with joy, she says, "The village is happy."

BOOK NOOK

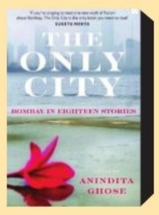


12 Years: My Messed-up Love Story
by Chetan Bhagat

Saket and Payal couldn't be more different – age, background, beliefs. Yet, they're drawn to each other in ways they can't explain. Is it just chemistry, or something deeper? Is it madness and lust, or is it love?

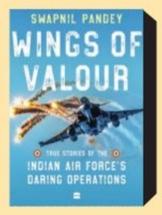
Giants
by Huthuka Sumi

When the fabled Old One, Kene the Giant, comes seeking a storyteller, Kato is certain a mistake has been made. But as the year unfolds, Kato must discover for himself what it truly means to have a voice.



The Only City: Bombay in Eighteen Stories
Edited by Anindita Ghose

Financial capital, cradle of Bollywood, home to India's largest slum – Bombay is a megalopolis with many associations. But the one that's especially significant is this: it is a place of stories.



Wings of Valour
by Swapnil Pandey

The author brings alive the extraordinary journeys of Air Force personnel – fighter pilots, transport and helicopter crews, Garud Special Forces, proud veterans, and Kargil heroes, and immortalises yet another legacy in the nation's collective memory.

CARNIVAL IN COLOURS

Members of Bangalore Chorus entertain audiences with their new show 'Big Bang Carnaval' held at Chowdiah Memorial Hall over the weekend | VINOD KUMAR T

QUICKFIX

STEAMED AMLA PICKLE

INGREDIENTS

- **Coriander seeds:** 1/4 tsp
- **Jeera, saunf, sesame seeds:** 1 tbsp each
- **Green chilli:** 2-3
- **Amla:** 12
- **Oil:** 1 tsp
- **Salt:** as per taste

METHOD

- Steam amla. Then, slit it four ways without cutting it, just enough to open it a bit.
- In a pestle, pound jeera, saunf, sesame seeds, coriander seeds, salt, and green chillies as per spice preference. Pound it really well. Alternatively, powder it in a mixer.
- In a pan, add oil, add the powder, sauté. Then add the amla and mix it well enough for it be covered with the powder.
- Turn it off. Store it in airtight container once it has cooled down. Can have one a day, every day, as skin and haircare routine.

Contributed by **Neel Kamal,** Bengaluru

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi

I'm thinking of keeping a hamster for the first time. What is the best diet to keep a newborn hamster healthy and active?

A healthy diet is essential for a newborn hamster's growth and activity. In the first few weeks, they depend on their mother's milk; if hand-rearing, use a kitten milk replacer. Around the three-week mark, start offering a high-quality commercial hamster pellet or mix to provide necessary nutrients.

ASK AN XPERT

You can also give small amounts of fresh fruits and vegetables like carrots, apples, or broccoli – avoid citrus and sugary foods. Always provide fresh water. Limit seeds and nuts due to their high fat content. Keep the feeding area clean to prevent illness and support your hamster's overall health.

FITBIT

CARDIO CONDITIONING: WORKOUT TO BUILD STRENGTH AND STAMINA

Cardio training doesn't have to mean endless running or cycling. When designed with purpose, it can be a dynamic full-body workout that strengthens muscles, elevates endurance, and boosts cardiovascular health – all within a short session. This routine combines controlled strength moves with high-intensity bursts to challenge every major muscle group while improving coordination and stamina.

The session begins with a warm-up to activate muscles and joints. Movements like inchworms with T-spine rotations stretch and mobilise the spine and shoulders, preparing the upper body for push-ups and planks later. Dead bugs engage the core and build coordination, while thread-the-needle rotations improve flexibility through the shoulders and spine. The warm-up ends with jumping T's, a simple cardio burst that raises the heart rate and primes the body for movement.

The main workout features four functional exercises performed in timed intervals – 40 seconds of work followed by 20 seconds of rest – repeated over three rounds.

Push-ups: Strengthen the chest, triceps, and core. Beginners can drop their knees to maintain form while keeping the elbows close to the body.

1.5 Squats: A variation that adds a half rep before standing up fully, increasing time under tension and deepening muscle engagement in the legs and glutes.

Plank Hold: An isometric move that challenges stability and strengthens the core, shoulders, and legs. Proper form – with the body in one straight line – is key.

Skater Jumps: A dynamic lateral exercise that improves balance, coordination, and lower body power while pushing the heart rate into the aerobic zone.

- Each round blends controlled strength work with explosive cardio movements, creating a balanced, high-intensity session. The format is simple enough for beginners yet scalable for advanced fitness levels – you can adjust intensity through speed, depth, or duration.
- The cooldown is just as crucial, helping the heart rate return to normal and easing muscle tension. Stretches like the Twisted Lizardopen the hips and quads, Cobra-to-Mountain transitions release the spine and hamstrings, while straddle folds and shoulder stretches restore flexibility and mobility.
- This type of full-body cardio training offers both physical and mental benefits – improved heart health, better muscle tone, sharper focus, and a deep sense of post-workout calm. For those with busy schedules, it's proof that consistency and intensity matter far more than duration.

By Dhruva Sivakumar, fitness expert, cult – a fitness and wellness platform

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Music and Museum

Immerse yourself in a music museum featuring playable musical sculptures, exhibit galleries, mini-theatres, and audiovisual installations. The museum covers a broad spectrum from folk and classical traditions to Bollywood and contemporary music.

WHEN: October 14, 10am
WHERE: Indian Music Experience, JP Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Resin It

Immerse yourself in a world of creativity at this Resin Clock Workshop! Under expert guidance, discover the art of crafting stunning resin masterpieces in soft blues, reminiscent of tranquil skies and ethereal landscapes.

WHEN: October 13, 11.30am
WHERE: Art Beat, HSR Layout
DETAILS: artbeatclasses.com

Play Paradise

Get along with your friends and enjoy a mix of physical and virtual experiences, from go-karting and rock climbing to VR and laser mazes. The event offers over 20 play zones featuring games, stimulators, and adventure activities for all ages.

WHEN: October 13, 10am
WHERE: Play Arena, Kasavanahalli
DETAILS: district.in

Funny Bone

Join for an evening filled with laughter with comedian Shamik Chakrabarti. The show promises an evening of humour and entertainment with some rib-tickling jokes.

WHEN: October 13, 10pm
WHERE: Ministry Of Comedy, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Bolly Beats

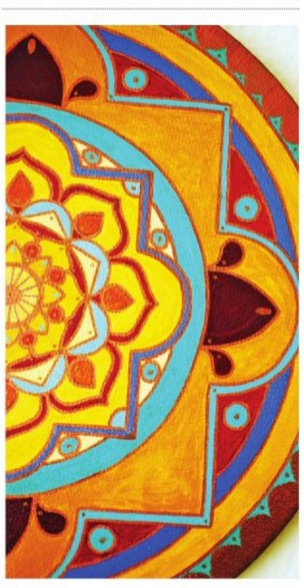
Kickstart your Monday with DJ Sulectro. Enjoy a festive winter-themed atmosphere while dancing the night away and indulging in delicious food and beverages.

WHEN: October 13, 8pm
WHERE: No Limmits Lounge And Club, Brigade Road
DETAILS: highape.com

Glow & Flow

Want to learn something new? Take yourself for a me-date and learn more about the art of candle making, where creativity meets calmness, and every candle you craft becomes a piece of your story.

WHEN: October 13, 6.30pm
WHERE: Fabrizo- Creativity Activity Hub, BTM Layout
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



Lippan Art

Discover the heritage craft of Lippan Kaam, Gujarat's iconic art form that combines mud and mirrors. Introduce yourself to the techniques of working with clay and create beautiful patterns that blend tradition with modern expression.

WHEN: October 13, 11am onwards
WHERE: Know How, Jayanagar
DETAILS: highape.com

ARTCORNER

CYCLES OF RENEWAL

In her mixed media work, Shibani Sehgal draws on the renewal of spring, finding beauty in nature's cycles and the harmony within disorder

VODDY COOL

With Vodka Day passing recently, *CE* dives into the history of this darling drink

KRISHNA P S

VODKA – Aqua Vitae for the Russians, or the 'water of life' – is, if you recall, the favourite cocktail ingredient of James Bond, the fictional master spy from Britain. But beyond similar cultural earmarks that has, no doubt, earned it a fan following, the spirit is also hailed as a political auxiliary that has shaped the trajectory of empires, most notably in Eastern Europe, where it originated.

Indeed, vodka was so well-entrenched in society here that when Vladimir the Great sent forth his legion of missionaries to explore other religions to replace paganism that existed in his empire, his main criterion to them was to not take the joy of life. According to him, 'drinking is the joy of Russians.'

Rejecting Judaism and Islam to keep embracing his love for pork and spirit, Vladimir turned to the Orthodox Church, inadvertently paving the way for the birth of vodka.

It is at the Chudov monastery, run by monks affiliated to the Orthodox Church, that the spirit – odourless, tasteless, and 'pure' – was first distilled. They called it the 'water of life', and it certainly went on to become just that in Russia's long and tumultuous history.

Flash forward to the First World War, one thing the then-monarch Nicholas II realised was that many battle losses could be attributed to the high vodka consumption among soldiers. It is said that in 1914, i.e. when the war began, an average Russian drank around 14 litres of vodka a year. Naturally, health and life expectancy went for a toss.

Nicholas therefore decided to take matters into his own hands. Soon, Russia became one of the first countries to experiment with prohibition. The monarch's decision proved to be costly.

Historians suggest that the Russian Revolution came fast to his doorstop, ending the rule of the Romanovs, in part because of this ban on the little water (meaning of vodka).

The end of the USSR, too, historians say, came about because of Gorbachev's decision in 1985 to impose restrictions on alcohol sales.

In any case, three years after the restriction, the health of Russians improved, and life expectancy rose from 62 to 65 years. But black market sales flourished. And lo and behold, the USSR fell shortly after.

Well, let's just say, vodka is a touchy subject for the Russians.

And this is evident when one looks at who first distilled this spirit. The tipplers from Russia or Poland? Scholars are still debating due to the lack of recorded information. And the battle is on, with both Poland and Russia claiming to be the first.

For centuries, the older version of vodka was compared to medicine and contained very little alcohol. And the first mention of the word, Wódka, was in 1405 in Poland.

The spirit arrived in Russia somewhere in the 14th century. And as previously stated, the Russian monks perfected the art of distilling vodka. And it is the distillation that sets apart this global favourite. It is a neutral spirit, simple at heart.

Traditionally, it is made from water and ethanol, which is made from fermenting grains like wheat, sorghum or rye. Potatoes and fruits like grapes are also used. Through repeated distillation, impurities, flavours and congeners are removed from the spirit, which makes it purer and more neutral than other alcohols.

And this makes vodka a mixologist's dream, as it blends with anything. Hence, we have vodka martini, vodka cranberry, to even vodka sauce pasta. Whatever you add, it just gels with the 'little water' on a spiritual level.

So without much ado, with Vodka day just behind us on October 4, let's look at a few recipes using this beverage.

ALCOHOL CONSUMTION IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

TRIVIA

- Alcohol by volume of vodka is typically between 37.5% (minimum in Europe) to 40% (minimum in the US). But high-proof versions with 70% ABV are available in the market.
- In the early days, it was used as medicine. Many thought it had magical powers to heal the wounds and the soul.
- Vodka comes from the word voda in Russian. It means water. Many believe the name came because of its colourless, odourless and tasteless properties.
- Vodka is distilled three to four times, sometimes even ten, to remove impurities to get a clean spirit. With each distillation, the alcohol content also goes up.
- Without much surprise, Russia tops the chart in vodka consumption. An average Russian drinks around 17 shots of vodka a month This is considered a public health concern and is linked to early deaths among Russian men.

STICKY TOFFEE VODKA PUDDING

INGREDIENTS

Toffee Sauce

- Light brown sugar: 220g
- Fresh cream: 160 ml
- Butter: 70g, Vanilla essence: ½ tsp
- Toffee-flavoured vodka: 1 tsp

PUDDING

- Pitted dates, chopped: 270g
- Toffee-flavoured vodka: 350 ml
- Butter (for greasing and batter):120g
- Light brown sugar: 200g
- Eggs, beaten: 3
- Self-raising flour: 280g
- Vanilla essence: ½ tsp

Method

Grease a baking tin with butter. To make the toffee sauce, gently heat the brown sugar with a little water until it melts into caramel, then stir in cream, butter, vanilla, and toffee vodka. Set the sauce aside to cool. Simmer the chopped dates in toffee vodka until soft, then mash lightly. Beat butter and sugar until fluffy, fold in the eggs, and then gently mix in the self-raising flour along with the mashed dates and vanilla. Pour the batter into the prepared tin and bake at 180°C until golden and springy to the touch. While still warm, pour half of the cooled toffee sauce over the pudding and return it to the oven briefly. Let it cool slightly before serving, and drizzle with the remaining warm toffee sauce.

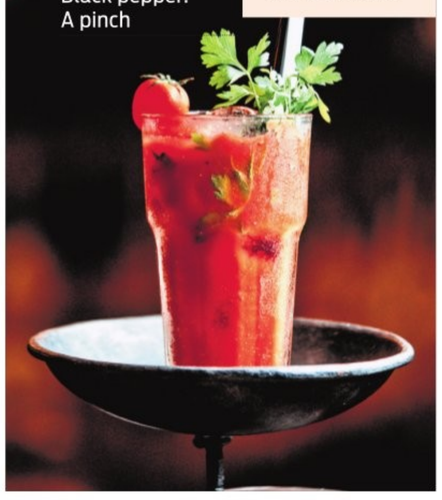
BLOODY MARY

INGREDIENTS

- Tomato juice: 125ml
- Vodka: 50ml
- Lemon juice: 1 tbsp
- Sweet sherry: 25ml
- Worcestershire sauce: ¼ tsp
- Hot sauce: A few drops
- Salt: A pinch
- Black pepper: A pinch

METHOD

In a shaker, add ice and then the ingredients. You can also add fennel seeds. Shake hard and strain into a tall glass with ice. Garnish with a celery stick, lemon wedge and a tomato.



PASSION FRUIT MARTINI

INGREDIENTS

- Passion fruits: 2
- Vodka: 60 ml
- Orange-flavoured liqueur/Cointreau: 30 ml
- Lime juice: 1 tbsp
- Sugar syrup: 1 tbsp
- Chilled sparkling water /soda: To top

METHOD

Scoop the seeds from one passion fruit into a cocktail shaker, and add vodka, orange liqueur, lime juice, and sugar syrup. Add ice and shake well until chilled. Strain into two martini glasses, top each with sparkling water or soda, and garnish with half a passion fruit. Serve immediately.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PUNEETH KUMAR K N,** S/o. Nagaraj, residing at #4339, 4th Main Road, Pipeline Road, Rajyotsava Nagar, Kumar Swamy Layout, 2nd Stage, JP Nagar Post, Bengaluru 560078, have changed my name to **PUNEETH KUMAR**, vide Affidavit Dated: 10/10/2025, sworn before Notary **MEER HASSAN,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **L RAVIKUMAR** (Old Name) S/o. **Lakshmaiah M,** R/at # 63, 23rd Ward, Akkupete, Devanahalli Town, Bengaluru Rural- 562110, hereby declared that in my passport my name is wrongly mentioned as **L. RAVIKUMAR** instead of **M.L. RAVIKUMAR** (New Name) vide affidavit dt:11.10.2025 before Notary **A.Narayanaswamy** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I **Vishwambhara Muchinthaya** aged about 34 years now residing at Matada Kare, Inna Village and Post, Karkala Taluk, Udupi District has changed my name as **Vishwambhara Muchinthaya Inna** for all purpose as per affidavit Dated 26.8.2025.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KRISHNA KANT OJHA** S/o Markendeya Ojha Resident of Deokuli (Kothiya) Village, Dekuli Behrampur PS, Baxur District, Bihar-802112 and presently residing at No.7, SLV Defence Square, 2nd Main, 1st cross, Baba Nagar Yelahanka, Bangalore North-560064. Do hereby solemnly affirm that in my minor son's school records my name is wrongly mentioned as Sgt **K K OJHA** and my wife name as **BINA**. Request the concerned authorities to change our correct names as **KRISHNA KANT OJHA** and **BINA OJHA** in the school records Vide affidavit dated 11.10.2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary **H Sridhar Rao**, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **GEETHA KOLARRAMACHANDRA IYER,** W/o Ramachandran G.N, and D/o K.V.Ramachandra Iyer, age 70 years, permanent address No. 472, 93rd Cross, Near Sagar Hospital, Kumaraswamy Layout 1st Stage, Bengaluru-560 078 do hereby declare that my full name is **GEETHA KOLAR RAMACHANDRA IYER,** but in certain documents my name appears in different forms as **GEETHA K.R.** and **K.R. GEETHA**, all the aforesaid names refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 10th Oct. 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **B. CHITRA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VISHWANATH ANGADI** residing at 624 9th A Cross, 8th Main Narayan Nagar 3rd Block Bangalore South Konanakunte Karnataka 560062, have changed my name from **VISHWANATH MANOHAR ANGADI to VISHWANATH ANGADI** for all Purposes, vide affidavit dated: 09.10.2025 sworn before advocate and notary Devaraja .E, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KUSHBOO JAHAN,** W/o Mr. Gyasuddin Khan, age 32 years, R/o #18/2, New Krishna Layout, Devarachikkanahalli, Bannerghatta Road, IIMB Post, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560076 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **KHUSHBOO JAHAN A** to **KUSHBOO JAHAN,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **KUSHBOO JAHAN** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 24-09-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary24th Sept. 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **L. PUTTARAJU** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) LOKANATHA.S, residing at No.10/25, 1st Main Road, Kalappa Block, R.C.Pura, Bengaluru-560021, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) LOKANATHA.S** to **(NEW NAME) S.LOKANATHARAO** vide affidavit dated 10.10.2025 sworn before Notary C.V.Earappa, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I Chandrakala Bhaskaran W/O Bhaskaran Shanmugasundaram Residing at No-53, 19TH Cross, BHEL Mini Colony, Pipeline Road, T.Dasarahalli, Bangalore-560057 have changed my name to CHANDRAKALA RAMACHANDRAN vide affidavit dated 10.10.2025 Sworn before Notary Anuradha.D, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SARASA VAIDYESH**, W/o. Srikantaiah Vaidyeshwara Tailur, residing at No. S-402, Abhignaa Pramuk, M M Meridian, M M Industries Road, 7th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore -560070, I have changed my name from **SARASWATHI VAIDYESHWARA to SARASA VAIDYESH,** before Notary Public D.K Rameshappa, Bangalore, Notary Register No.1127, vide Affidavit on 10/10/2025.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BHUVAN BANGALORE SIDDALINGA DEVARU (BHUVAN B S)** previously called (Old Name) son of Siddalingadevaru Bangalore Virupakshappa, aged 25 years, residing at # 760, 14th Main, ITI Layout, Mallathahalli, Bengaluru–560056, solemnly declare:- that I changed myname from **BHUVAN SIDDALINGADEVARU to BHUVAN BANGALORE SIDDALINGADEVARU** vide affidavit dated 09/10/2025 sworn to before **K C SHASHIKALA** Advocate and Notary Public, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BALAJI BOGGARAPU,** S/o B Sreeramulu Chetty, age 43 years, R/at 15, 2nd Min, SBI Layout, Kodichikkanahalli, Bliekahalli, Bengaluru-560 076 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **BALAJI BOGGAVARAPU** to **BALAJI BOGGARAPU,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **BALAJI BOGGARAPU** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 10th Oct. 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **DHARANI .P** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Zaheer Sharif, S/o. Abdul Ghaffar Sharif age about 51 years, Residing at No. 37, 3rd Main, Chikkana Layout, Shampura Main road, K G Halli, Bangalore-560045.** have changed my name to **ZAHEER SHARIFF** Vide-affidavit dated 09-10-2025. Sworn before advocate and Notary, R. Basavaraja, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHABEEN TAJ, Aged about 44 years, W/o. AKBAR PASHA, Residing at No. 10, 31st Main, 2nd Cross, Nanjappa Layout, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore South, Karnataka 560076, have changed my name from **SHAHEEN TAJ to SHABEEN TAJ** vide affidavit dated: 10.10.2025 sworn before advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain .K Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **J. NEMARAM,** R/at No. 619/215/7A/1-22, DRV Layout, Old Bus Stop, Opp HDFC Bank, Devanahalli Town, Bengaluru Rural-562110, **Passport No: Z3178610** hereby declared that in my passport my wife's name is wrongly mentioned as **NIRMAL BABU** (Old Name) instead of **BABU DEVI** (New Name) vide affidavit dt:10.10.2025 before Notary **A. Narayanaswamy** Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHEKHAR DEVARA, Son of Sriramulu, aged about 54 years, Date of Birth: 07.05.1971, residing at No.586, 10th Cross, Indiranagar, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru - 560 010, have changed my name from **S. SEKAR** to **SHEKHAR DEVARA,** vide affidavit dated 10/10/2025 sworn to before B Prasanna Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PARVATI B KATAGI,** W/o. N. Narayanaswamy, aged about 46 years, resident of A111 Ortus Phase 2 Lakshmi Narayana Temple Amruthalli Sahakar Nagar, Bangalore North Pin-560092, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **PARVATI KATAGI** to **PARVATI B KATAGI,** vide affidavit dated 05.08.2025, sworn to before S.P. Gandhi, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAMYA BOGGARAPU,** W/o Balaji Boggarapu, age 38 years, R/at 15, 2nd Min, SBI Layout, Kodichikkanahalli, Bliekahalli, Bengaluru-560 076 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **RAMYA BOGGAVARAPU** to **RAMYA BOGGARAPU,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **RAMYA BOGGARAPU** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 10th Oct. 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **DHARANI .P** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ATHAULLA SHARIEFF,** S/o. Husaini Shariff, Residing at No. 11/2, Bowee Chary Street, Seppings Road Bangalore560 051. have changed my name to **ATHAULLA SHARIFF** Vide-affidavit dated 08-10-2025. Sworn before advocate and Notary, Meer Hassan, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MEERA K S,** wife of N. Madhusudan, aged about 52 years, resident of No. 22, Anugraha, 17th Cross, Siddashrama Road, Malleswaram, Bangalore 560003, have changed my name from **MEERA MADHUSUDAN to MEERA K S** for all Purposes, vide affidavit dated: 10.10.2025 sworn before advocate and notary B.R. Shashikala, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **J. NEMARAM,** S/o. **Jevataram,** R/at No.619/215/7A/1-22, DRV Layout, Old Bus Stop, Opp HDFC Bank, Devanahalli Town, Bengaluru Rural-562110, **Passport No. Z3178610** hereby declared that in my Passport my name is wrongly mentioned as **NEMARAMJI DEWASHI** (Old Name) instead of **J. NEMARAM** (New Name) vide affidavit dt:10.10.2025 before Notary A. Narayanaswamy Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, VARSHINI, Daughter of SHANMUGAM aged about 22 years, Date of Birth: 20.03.2003, residing at No.586, 10th Cross, Indiranagar, West of Chord Road, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru - 560 010, have changed my name from **ABARNA.S** to **VARSHINI,** vide affidavit dated 10/10/2025 sworn to before B Prasanna Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MUKESH T** S/o. Thimmappa, aged about 38 years, resident of 13 Haralur Nagenahalli Village, Vjayapura Post, Devanahalli Tq, Bangalore District Pin-562135, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MUKHESH T** to **MUKESH T,** vide affidavit dated 06.10.2025, sworn to before S.P. Gandhi, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Begaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **PUSHPALATHA** K, W/o Kumar E, age 43 years, R/at No. 2/1, 9th Main Road, 17th Cross, Padarayanapura, Bangalore-560 026 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **PUSHPALATHA K** alias PUSHPAVATHI **N** are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 10th October 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **P.N. NAGESHA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **FARHEEN ZOHRA AKRAM,** resident of No 271/3&4 DODDAKANNAHALLI, Sarjapur Road, BENGALURU-560035, KARNATAKA, have changed my name from **FARHEEN ZOHRA** for all Purposes, vide affidavit dated: 11.10.2025 sworn before advocate and notary Aravind patil G.G., Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHIVAKUMAR GANGOLLE SANNACHIKKANNA Aged about of Years, S/o Chikkanna Gangapattana Sannachikkanna, Residing at No 228, 8th Main, 9th Block Nagarbavi 2nd Stage, Bengaluru 560072, Karnataka, have changed my name to **GANGAPATTANA SANNACIUKKANNA SHIVAKUMAR** Vide-affidavit dated 11-10-2025. Sworn before advocate and Notary Deepa .M Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **J. NEMARAM,** S/o. **JEVATA RAM,** R/at No.619/215/7A/1-22, DRV Layout, Old Bus Stop, Opp HDFC Bank, Devanahalli Town, Bengaluru Rural-562110, **Passport No: Z3178610** hereby declared that in my Passport my father's name is wrongly mentioned as **JEVAT RAMJI** (Old Name) instead of **JEVATA RAM,** (New Name) vide affidavit dt:10.10.2025 before Notary **A Narayanaswamy** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHYAMALA RAVICHANDRAN, W/o Ravichandran, Age 46 years, Residing at No.175, 1st Floor, 3rd Main Road, University Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru- 98, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SHIYAMALA N TO SHYAMALA RAVICHANDRAN** . vide affidavit dated 06/10/2025 sworn before advocate & Notary N. Sandhya, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **R RAVICHANDRA** S/o Ramakrishna Resident of No.17, 13th A Main, Opp Royal Concorde, Begur Road, Hongasandra, Bangalore - 560068. Do hereby solemnly affirm that as per my Aadhar card, Pan card, Voter ID, Gas connection and Bank account my name is **R RAVICHANDRA** but in my SSLC Transfer certificate my name is wrongly mentioned as **RAVICHANDRA**. Both the names belongs to me only, Henceforth my name will be **R RAVICHANDRA** in all my records and certificate, Vide affidavit dated 12.10.2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary **K V Mani**, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **SANTHOSH GANJIGUNTE RAMACHANDRAN,** S/o Ramachandran G.N, age 40 years, permanent address No. 472, 93rd Cross, Near Sagar Hospital, Kumaraswamy Layout 1st Stage, Bengaluru-560 078 do hereby declare that all the names i.e. **SANTHOSH GANJIGUNTE RAMACHANDRAN, SANTHOSH .G.R, G.R. SANTHOSH, SANTHOSH G. RAMACHANDRAN** are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 10th Oct. 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary B. CHITRA at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **R PRAKASH** residing at Vinayaka Exct Behind Durgamma Temple Hosadurga Karnataka 577527, have changed my name from **RAMANNA PRAKASHA to R PRAKASH** for all Purposes, vide affidavit dated: 11.10.2025 sworn before advocate and notary Devaraja .E, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Pooja Jain, Daughter of Shah Mahavir and wife of Uday Jain N, aged about 30 years, residing at Darpan 23/476, Brahmaramba Extension, 6th Cross, Chamarajanagar, Karnataka-571313., have changed my name from **Shah Pooja Mahavir to Pooja Jain** for all Purposes, vide affidavit dated: 09.10.2025 sworn before advocate and notary M. Madesha, Yelanduru

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Love OTP is inspired by my real-life police friend: Aniissh

CE FEATURES

ANIISSH has completed filming his latest directorial venture, *Love OTP*, and its newly released trailer hints at a lively ride filled with emotion, humour, and chaos. The title itself teases playfulness, as OTP here means "Over Torture Pressure," and the film seems to thrive on that very energy. The two-minute trailer captures a whirlwind of moments, combining romance, action, cricket, father-son conflict, police station confusion, and tangled friendships, all cut together with infectious rhythm and flair.

Love OTP follows Akshay, a young man chasing his cricket dreams while constantly getting distracted by love. His world spirals into a comic storm of heartbreaks, friendships, and unexpected trouble with the law. Through this mix of laughter and drama, Anissh, who stars, directs, and has written the screenplay, is gearing up to offer a youthful entertainer that celebrates the confusion, emotion, and madness of life.

"OTP has many meanings," says Anissh with a smile. "For me, it is Over Torture Pressure. But as a director, I never felt that pressure. I wrote, acted, and directed this film, and I enjoyed every bit of it. Everyone knows how to cook biryani; it is the flavour that makes it yours. Likewise, I have added my own essence to this film. No matter the irritation or frustration, I make sure not to bring that onto the frame. Rest assured, Aniissh can never give a bad film."

Aniissh

For Anissh, who earlier directed Ramarjuna, *Love OTP* offered a chance to explore a lighter and more youthful space. "I already had a technical hold as a filmmaker, but I wanted to try something fresh," he shares. "This story actually came from an ACP friend of mine. He once told me that his son had too many girlfriends and it was becoming a headache. I found that line hilarious, and that is where the idea came from, a strict father caught in his son's chaotic love life."

Produced by Vijay M Reddy under Bhavaprita Productions and presented by Pushpa Munireddy, *Love OTP* also marks the comeback of actor Pramodini and stars Swaroopini, formerly known as Arohi Narayan, along with Swathi, Rajeev Kanakala, Janhvi Kakalakere, and Krishna Bhatt.

With music by Anand Rajavikram and cinematography by Harsha Vardhan K, the film has cleared its U/A certification and is gearing up for a November release.

WORKING WITH S NARAYAN TAUGHT ME THE TRADITIONAL WAY OF FILMMAKING: BRINDA ACHARYA

Brinda Acharya

A still from the film

With *Marutha* ready for release and projects like *Bank of Bhagyalakshmi* and *Sathya S/O Harischandra* lined up, Brinda Acharya opens up about her busy slate, learning under a veteran director, and the joy of audience acceptance

A SHARADHAA

BRINDA ACHARYA'S journey in Kannada cinema is quietly evolving. After *X & Y*, the actor now has a lineup that brings variety to her platter. Apart from her next release, *Marutha*, Brinda has *Bank of Bhagyalakshmi*, two projects set for 2026, a film headlined by Ajai Rao, another titled *Sathya S/o Harischandra,* and actor Manoranjan's next. "Projects are keeping me busy, but it is the audience accepting my choices that brings a whole new happiness," says Brinda, her voice reflecting gratitude and excitement. "I am waiting to see how people connect with my choices," she adds.

Marutha stars Shreyas Manju opposite Brinda, and is slated to hit theatres on October 31. Talking about working with the legendary S Narayan, Brinda says, "Working with him introduced me to a traditional school of filmmaking. It was an entirely different experience. The production team and the unit members were all veterans, people who have been in the industry for decades. They bring in the old-school way of making cinema, and in a very positive way, I got to learn how films were made traditionally," she says.

Brinda recalls that the sets of *Marutha* had no monitor, a rare experience in today's filmmaking. "For someone like me, who is still new, having a monitor helps me understand how I am performing. On this set, that was not possible. S Narayan Sir would stand right behind the camera, frame the shot himself, and guide us entirely through his vision. If he wanted me to adjust my hair or move slightly, I would do it, but I would never get to see how it looked. I had to completely trust the process and go by the captain of the ship. He has an incredible sense of cinema, and I believe he has envisioned my role beautifully. I completely trust his vision and the film."

Marutha, produced by K Manju and Ramesh Yadav, with music, lyrics, and direction by S Narayan, blends commercial storytelling with a strong social message. "It is a film that connects with today's youth while still carrying an important message," says Brinda, adding that cinematographer PKH Das's visuals add richness to the narrative.

The film also features a strong ensemble cast, including Vijay Kumar and Sadhu Kokila, with Ravichandran and Nishvika in guest appearances. Brinda fondly recalls her first day shooting with Vijay Kumar. "There was a sequence that required rehearsals, and knowing how particular S Narayan Sir is, Vijay made sure we practiced the scene ten to twelve times. He is such an experienced actor, yet he rehearsed like a newcomer. I learned something important that day. No matter how long you have been in the industry, you have to erase everything and start fresh. That humility stood out to me," she says.

About her co-star Shreyas Manju, Brinda shares, "Shreyas is a good friend and has a strong urge to explore cinema. He wants to do so many things, and he approaches every film with genuine curiosity and energy."

She also speaks warmly about one of the film's songs, Nammamma Savadatti Ellamma, a devotional dance number choreographed by Mohan Master. "It has come out beautifully. It is a dancer's song, and I am eagerly waiting to watch it on screen," she says.

In *Marutha*, Brinda plays a girl-next-door character, and she believes the film's message has been portrayed beautifully through simple storytelling. "It is a socially driven story, and that is what makes it special," she says.

Working with S Narayan, she concludes, was like stepping into a classroom. "He has worked with legends like Dr Rajkumar, and he shared so many stories from those days. Listening to him was a learning experience in itself. I felt like I was part of a legacy."

CHATUSHPATHA GEARS UP FOR RELEASE

Krishnoji Rao makes his directorial debut with Chatushpatha and co-produces the film with Roopa Bai Rao

CE FEATURES

KRISHNOJI RAO leads *Chatushpatha* as its creative driving force and co-produces the film with Roopa Bai Rao under their home banner. Having recently wrapped the shooting, the makers released the trailer of the film, featuring Milana Nagaraj, Jagan, Kiran Raj, and Shilpa in pivotal roles. *Chatushpatha* hints at a social drama exploring the crossroads of life.

Speaking to the media after the trailer launch, director-producer Krishnoji Rao shared, "*Chatushpatha* translates to 'four paths' — something we often notice at crossroads. In our film, it symbolises four individuals representing different strata of society — the lower class, middle class, upper class, and law and order. Each takes a unique path, and where those roads converge forms the crux of the story. The film is now complete, and the first copy is ready. We'll be announcing the release date soon."

"When Krishnoji narrated the story, I was instantly drawn to my character. The film follows four people walking four different paths, and how these paths intersect defines *Chatushpatha*," Jagan added.

A still from the film

Music director Veera Samarth revealed that the film consists of two songs and a short musical piece. "The songs have come out beautifully and will be released shortly. We also had Vijay Prakash lending his voice and giving valuable inputs for the lyrics written by the director himself," said the composer.

Chatushpatha's cast is rounded out by Hanumathe Gowda, Sridhar, Sundar Veena, Akarsh, Tarang Vishva, and Savita Krishnamurthy.

Lady Gaga joins *The Devil Wears Prada 2*

CE FEATURES

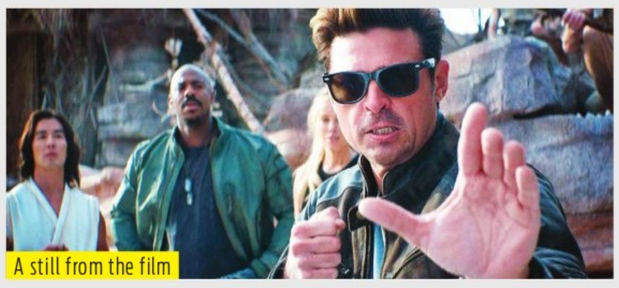
AFTER recently appearing in Tim Burton's *Wednesday* season 2, Lady Gaga is set to be a part of the much-anticipated sequel to *The Devil Wears Prada*. The singer-songwriter was spotted in Milan, where the film starring Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt, and Stanley Tucci is currently filming.

While details regarding her role are currently unknown, *The Devil Wears Prada 2* will mark her first theatrical appearance since last year's *Joker: Folie a Deux*, in which she played Harley Quinn. The upcoming film is directed by David Frankel, who also directed the original film. The newcomers for the sequel include Kenneth Branagh, Lucy Liu, Simone Ashley, Justin Theroux, BJ Novak, Pauline Chalamet, Rachel Bloom, and Patrick Brammall. Tracie Thoms and Tibor Feldman reprise their roles from the original. *The Devil Wears Prada 2* is slated to hit theatres on May 1, 2026.

Mortal Kombat 3 in the works

CE FEATURES

THE third instalment in the *Mortal Kombat* film series has been officially greenlit by New Line Cinema and Warner Bros. The announcement was made at the New York Comic Con. Jeremy Slater, the screenwriter for *Mortal Kombat II*, is returning to write the third film, which started with *Mortal Kombat* (2021). Simon McQuoid directed the original film, which is based on the popular video game franchise of the same name. The second film, with McQuoid returning to the director's chair, is set to release on May 15, 2026.



A still from the film

Karl Urban is joining the cast as Johnny Cage. Others joining *Mortal Kombat II* are Adeline Rudolph, Tati Gabrielle, Damon Herriman, Martyn Ford, Desmond Chiam, Ana Thu Nguyen, and CJ Bloomfield. Cast members returning for the sequel are Jessica McNamee, Hiroyuki Sanada, Josh Lawson, Mehcad Brooks, Lewis Tan, Chin Han, Joe Taslim, and Max Huang.

WONDER MAN GETS PREMIERE DATE

CE FEATURES

MARVEL Studios recently revealed that the upcoming miniseries, *Wonder Man*, will premiere on January 27, 2026. The announcement was made at the New York Comic Con (NYCC). Consisting of eight episodes, the miniseries stars Yahya Abdul-Mateen II as Simon Williams/Wonder Man, a struggling actor trying to get the role of Wonder Man, which is to be directed by a reclusive director. Oscar winner Ben Kingsley returns as Trevor Slattery, reprising his role from *Iron Man 3*. Trevor Slattery is a man who is competing with Simon Williams for the role of Wonder Man.

Speaking at the NYCC, Abdul-Mateen II said, "As an actor, there's so much that goes into it. There's vulnerability, there's ego, there's hopes and dreams, there's ambition, there's the lonely road. As Simon, I get to walk that fine line and experience all of that. I'm really excited to share Simon's journey towards achieving his dream."